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BOROUGH OF REIGATE

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH  
T. H. Bingham, M.D., D.P.H.



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Together with the

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR  
G. Janes, M.R.S.H.,  
M.S.I.A.

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1955

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STAFF OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Medical Officer of Health:  
(Medical Officer of Health, Godstone R.D., and  
Divisional County Medical Officer):

THOMAS H. BINGHAM, M.D., B.Ch., D.P.H.

Public Analyst (part-time):  
D. D. MOIR, M.Sc., F.R.I.C.

Deputy Public Analyst:  
THOMAS E. RYMER, F.R.I.C.

Chief Sanitary Inspector:  
GILBERT JANES, Cert.R.S.I.,  
Cert.Inspector of Meat and Other Foods

Sanitary Inspectors:  
CLEMENT S. T. DANCER, Cert. R.S.I.  
Cert.Inspector of Meat and Other Foods  
(until 31st August, 1955)

REGINALD FRANKHAM, Cert. R.S.I. & S.I.E.J.B.,  
Cert.Inspector of Meat and Other Foods

DEREK A. EVES, Cert.R.S.I. & S.I.E.J.B.  
(until 20th February, 1955)

KENNETH J. TYLER, Cert. R.S.I. & S.I.E.J.B.  
Cert.Inspector of Meat and Other Foods  
(from 12th September, 1955)

JOHN K. FREATHY, Cert. R.S.I. & S.I.E.J.B.  
(from 17th October, 1955)

Sanitary Inspectors' Assistant:

PETER W. G. PILE

Disinfecting Officer & General Assistant:

FREDERICK G. STEWART  
(until 26th October, 1955)

JOHN A. AGENT  
(from 17th October, 1955)

Pests Officer:  
JOHN KEMPSHALL

Assistant Pests Officer:  
EDWARD E. ARNOULD

Clerks:

VERA VERRALL

CLARICE V. GEE (until 31st August, 1955)

JOAN I. LINCOLN (from 12th September, 1955)

ROSEMARY KING





BOROUGH OF REIGATE

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the year 1955

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To the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I beg to present my Report on the health and sanitary circumstances of the Borough of Reigate in the year 1955. The Report is drawn up generally in accordance with the requirements of the Ministry of Health, as indicated in Circular 17/55, and in the main follows the same arrangement as earlier issues in the same series.

The vital statistics for the year are not without interest. The birth rate of 13.65 is the lowest for the past four years and, when adjusted, is somewhat below that for England and Wales. There was, however, a very low rate of mortality amongst young infants and a reduction in the proportion registered as still-born. The general death rate of 12.14 is slightly higher than that for 1954, but is well below the average for the preceding ten years; the adjusted death rate of 9.4 is appreciably below the rate for the country as a whole, which was 11.7. Reference is made to the increase in the number of deaths ascribed to influenza and its complications, cancer of the lung and ulceration of the stomach and duodenum, and to the relatively low mortality from kidney diseases, maternal causes, all forms of violence, including motor vehicle accidents, and the notifiable infectious diseases, especially respiratory tuberculosis. On the whole, the mortality rates for other specified and defined diseases compare favourably with any previously recorded in the Borough.

The most noteworthy epidemiological events of the year were a fairly extensive outbreak of influenza, with relatively high mortality amongst elderly persons, in the early spring, and widespread prevalence of measles which, following its usual two-year cycle, was epidemic at mid-summer, when whooping cough also reached its peak of maximum prevalence. The case rates for all the other notifiable infections were not above the average for the Borough, though it may be observed that gastro-intestinal affections, such as bacillary dysentery and food poisoning, and acute infections of the nervous system, particularly poliomyelitis and cerebrospinal meningitis, are gradually assuming greater prominence in the returns of infectious diseases. On the other hand, there has been a striking decline in the prevalence and severity of scarlet fever, and virtual disappearance of diphtheria, which was formerly the most dreaded and fatal of the infectious diseases of childhood. The rates of prevalence of respiratory and non-respiratory forms of tuberculosis also have steadily fallen in recent years and, in 1955, were amongst the lowest ever experienced in the Borough.

Special reference might be made to the satisfactory position with regard to the acceptance of examination by mass radiography and of protective inoculation against the range of infectious diseases for which effective immunising agents are now available. Although the rate of acceptance of infant vaccination against smallpox has not yet reached the desirable optimum of 75.0 per cent, it is steadily approaching that figure, which has almost been realised in the protective inoculation of young infants against diphtheria and whooping cough. The recent introduction of B.C.G. vaccination of thirteen-year-old children against tuberculosis has been very well received, and it is expected that artificial immunisation against poliomyelitis, when generally available, will be no less readily accepted.

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These various immunilological procedures have very greatly extended the scope of preventive action in the field of epidemic and communicable disease. A desirable development that would greatly assist their practical application would be a combination of immunising agents in one injection that would simultaneously afford protection against a group of diseases. The combination of whooping cough vaccine with diphtheria antigen has been the first important step in this direction.

I have again to record my sincere appreciation of the efficient and conscientious service rendered by my staff, the assistance and close co-operation of officials engaged in other departments of the Corporation and the support and consideration extended to me throughout the year by the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee.

I am, Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

T. H. BINGHAM

Medical Officer of Health

Caberfeigh,  
Redhill.

25th July, 1956

1. The first part of the document is a letter from the President of the United States to the Congress, dated January 3, 1862. It contains a report on the state of the Union and the progress of the war.

2. The second part of the document is a report from the Secretary of the War Department, dated January 10, 1862. It contains a detailed account of the military operations and the condition of the army.

3. The third part of the document is a report from the Secretary of the Navy Department, dated January 15, 1862. It contains a detailed account of the naval operations and the condition of the fleet.

4. The fourth part of the document is a report from the Secretary of the Treasury Department, dated January 20, 1862. It contains a detailed account of the financial operations and the condition of the treasury.

5. The fifth part of the document is a report from the Secretary of the Interior Department, dated January 25, 1862. It contains a detailed account of the land and mineral operations and the condition of the department.

6. The sixth part of the document is a report from the Secretary of the State Department, dated January 30, 1862. It contains a detailed account of the diplomatic operations and the condition of the department.

7. The seventh part of the document is a report from the Secretary of the War Department, dated February 5, 1862. It contains a detailed account of the military operations and the condition of the army.

8. The eighth part of the document is a report from the Secretary of the Navy Department, dated February 10, 1862. It contains a detailed account of the naval operations and the condition of the fleet.

9. The ninth part of the document is a report from the Secretary of the Treasury Department, dated February 15, 1862. It contains a detailed account of the financial operations and the condition of the treasury.

## SECTION 1

### STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS

Area (Land and Inland Water)	.. .. .	10,255 acres
Population, Census 1951	.. .. .	42,248
Registrar-General's estimate of resident population, mid-year, 1955	.. .. .	48,180
Number of inhabited houses at end of 1955 according to Rate Books	.. .. .	13,764
Rateable Value (1955)	.. .. .	£518,966
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	.. .. .	£2,112

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#### Population

The population of the Borough, including members of the Armed Forces stationed in the area, was estimated by the Registrar-General to be 48,180 at mid-year, 1955. This represents a population increment of 570 in the preceding twelve months, of which 73 is attributable to natural increase (i.e. excess of live births over deaths) and 497 to migration into the area. The population gains under both headings, and particularly under the latter, are very much smaller than usual. This was to be expected in view of the decline in the birth rate accompanying an advance in the death rate, which produced a smaller gain by natural increase, and the slowing up of building development, particularly on the London County Council Estate at Merstham, which led to a reduction of the population increment by migration.

The Registrar-General's estimate is not greatly at variance with the population figure computed on information from other sources, and, accordingly, the various statistical rates for the year, which are calculated on the estimate, fairly represent the extent of sickness and mortality actually experienced in the Borough in the year under review.

#### Births

A total of 658 live infants (331 males and 327 females) were born to women normally resident in the Borough. The recorded birth rate for the year was, therefore, 13.65 per 1,000 of the estimated population, as compared with 14.43 in 1954, 15.21 in 1953 and an average rate of 14.26 for the preceding five years. The decline in the birth rate was accompanied by a slightly higher rate of mortality amongst new-born infants, though proportionately fewer infants were still-born.

When adjusted in the prescribed manner for purposes of comparison, the recorded birth rate for the Borough in 1955 is advanced to 14.33, which compares with a rate of 15.0 for England and Wales.

#### Deaths

The deaths assigned to the area include those of Borough residents who died elsewhere, but exclude those of temporary residents, which are transferred to the districts in which they normally resided. The total number of deaths so assigned was 585, of which 294 were of males and 291 of females.

The death rate calculated on this total is 12.14 per thousand of the estimated population, as compared with 12.01 in 1954, 14.19 in 1953 and an average rate of 12.01 for the preceding five years. In the latter period, however, deaths occurring in certain local residential institutions were transferred to the districts from which the inmates had been admitted; the present system of assigning such deaths to the Borough has had the effect of slightly raising the recorded death rate for 1953 and subsequent years. When corrected for purposes of comparison, the recorded death rate for 1955 is reduced to 9.4 per 1,000, as against a rate of 11.7 for the country as a whole.





TABLE 1

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICSLive Births:-

Legitimate	..	..	Males	321	Females	316	Total	637
Illegitimate	..	..	Males	10	Females	11	Total	21

Birth Rate

Do. 1954	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	13.6
Do. for the five years 1950 to 1954	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	14.4
	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	14.2

Still Births:-

Legitimate	..	..	Males	9	Females	1	Total	10
Illegitimate	..	..	Males	1	Females	-	Total	1

Rate per 1,000 total births

Do.	do.	1954	..	..	..	..	..	16.4
			..	..	..	..	..	18.5

Deaths (nett):

Males	..	294	Females	..	291	..	..	Total	585
-------	----	-----	---------	----	-----	----	----	-------	-----

Do. 1954:-

Males	..	280	Females	..	292	..	..	Total	572
-------	----	-----	---------	----	-----	----	----	-------	-----

Death Rate

Do 1954	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	12.1
Do. for the five years 1950 to 1954	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	12.0
	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	13.0

Percentage of total deaths occurring in Public

<u>Institutions</u>	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	49.0
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Maternal Mortality:-

Deaths from pregnancy, childbirth and abortion	..	Nil
Rate per 1,000 total (live & still) births	..	Nil

Infant Mortality:-Deaths of infants under one year of age:-

Legitimate	..	..	Males	7	Females	3	Total	10
Illegitimate	..	..	Males	1	Females	-	Total	1

Infant Death Rate:-

All infants per 1,000 live births	..	..	..	..	..	..	16.7
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	..	..	..	..	..	..	15.6
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	..	..	..	..	..	..	47.6

Death of infants under 4 weeks of age:-

Legitimate	..	..	Males	5	Females	-	Total	5
Illegitimate	..	..	Males	1	Females	-	Total	1

Deaths from:-

Cancer (all ages)	..	..	..	..	..	..	100
Measles (all ages)	..	..	..	..	..	..	0
Whooping Cough (all ages)	..	..	..	..	..	..	0
Gastro-enteritis (under 2 years of age)	..	..	..	..	..	..	0



TABLE I

Summary of the results of the experiments

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1. The results of the experiments are summarized in the following table:

2. The results of the experiments are summarized in the following table:

3. The results of the experiments are summarized in the following table:

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12. The results of the experiments are summarized in the following table:

13. The results of the experiments are summarized in the following table:

14. The results of the experiments are summarized in the following table:

The numbers of deaths of each sex in various age groups were as follows:-

<u>Age group</u>		<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
0 - 1 year	..	8	3	11
1 - 5 years	..	1	3	4
5 - 10 years	..	2	2	4
10 - 15 years	..	-	-	-
15 - 20 years	..	3	-	3
20 - 30 years	..	2	4	6
30 - 40 years	..	4	6	10
40 - 50 years	..	16	6	22
50 - 60 years	..	31	24	55
60 - 70 years	..	53	36	89
70 - 80 years	..	95	97	192
80 - 90 years	..	66	82	148
90 and upwards	..	13	28	41
		<u>294</u>	<u>291</u>	<u>585</u>

For the second consecutive year there were very few deaths of infants under the age of one year. Eleven such deaths were registered, of which ten took place in hospital and were attributed to prematurity or gross congenital defect or deformity; six of these infants failed to survive the first four weeks. The total infant deaths represent a mortality rate of 16.7 per 1,000 live births, which is the second lowest recorded in the Borough and is appreciably below the corresponding rate for the country as a whole, which was 24.9. It is improbable that infant mortality, and particularly neo-natal mortality, will be substantially reduced below its present level until more is known of the causes and possible means of prevention of premature birth and gross congenital abnormality, to which the majority of infant deaths are now attributable. This matter is at present the subject of detailed investigation

Attention might also be drawn to the relatively low mortality in the intermediate age groups and to the fact that more than one-third of the total deaths were of persons over the age of eighty years, including forty-one nonagenarians. Survival to such advanced age is influenced by many factors, including the greater attention now devoted to geriatric services and the activities of various official and voluntary agencies in the interests of the aged and infirm. It might be mentioned, however, that the recent inclusion in Borough statistics of deaths occurring in residential institutions and homes for old people has, of course, added somewhat to the mortality recorded in the advanced age groups.

The numbers of deaths assigned to specified causes are set out in Table II. It may be noted that none was ascribed to acute infectious illness, with the exception of influenza, which was unusually prevalent in the Borough, as elsewhere, in the early months of the year and claimed most of its victims amongst the aged and infirm. Bronchitis and pneumonia, in some cases at least occurring as a respiratory complication of influenza, also made slightly more than their usual contribution to the general death rate.





Diseases of the heart and circulatory system accounted, as usual, for rather more than one-half of the total deaths from all causes and in most cases were of the terminal or degenerative type occurring in association with senility. It is of some interest to note that there were relatively fewer deaths from high blood pressure and affections of the coronary arteries, which have figured fairly prominently in local death returns in recent years.

The death rate for all forms of cancer and malignant diseases was slightly higher than in 1954, but coincides with the average rate for the preceding decade; in fact, the mortality from this cause has not shown any sustained upward trend in the Borough in the past twenty years. During the latter part of this period, however, there has been a very substantial and progressive increase in the proportion of deaths attributed to cancer of the lung, especially amongst males over middle age. The number of such deaths in the Borough has trebled since 1950, which was the first year in which lung cancer was classified separately in local statistics. The same upward trend is reflected in national statistics and is no doubt due to a combination of causes, many of which are as yet unidentified.

The increase in the mortality from cancer of the lung has been accompanied by an almost corresponding decline in that from respiratory tuberculosis. The death rate for the latter in 1955 was 0.08 per 1,000 of the population, which coincides with the lowest on record and is roughly one-third of the average rate for the preceding ten years. The fact that the prevalence of this form of the disease has not declined at the same rate during this period may be an indication of the efficacy of newer methods of treatment and of detection of the disease in its earlier stages, when treatment is most likely to be effective. The death rate from non-respiratory forms of tuberculosis has not shown any significant decline in recent years.

In 1955 there was a very sharp increase in the number of deaths resulting from ulceration of the stomach and duodenum, which is now considered to be a manifestation of reaction to the stress and strain of present day conditions; an unusual feature is the relatively large number of females so affected. Deaths from kidney diseases and from all forms of violence, including motor vehicle accidents, were considerably below the average and, for the sixth consecutive year, there was no mortality from pregnancy, child-bearing or other maternal causes. The numbers of deaths attributed to other defined diseases did not exceed the average for the Borough and do not indicate unusual or excessive mortality from any particular cause.

#### National Assistance Act, 1948 - Section 47

It was not necessary during the year to exercise the powers conferred by Section 47 of the National Assistance Act, 1948, to secure the removal to hospital or other suitable premises of chronic sick, aged, infirm, or physically incapacitated persons who were found to be in need of care and attention which they were unable to devote to themselves and were not receiving from others.

Reports were received from general medical practitioners, hospital almoners, health visitors and others concerning eight cases in which it appeared such action should be considered. All were fully investigated; in seven cases it was possible, with the assistance forthcoming from the home help, welfare, district nursing and general public health services and from other sources, to effect such improvement in the standard of care and attention and in the sanitation of the home that removal to hospital was not necessary; the eighth case could not be satisfactorily dealt with in this way and was admitted to a suitable institution, at the instigation of the Mental Health Officer.





TABLE II  
Causes of Death in the Borough of Reigate  
during 1955

	M	F	Total
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory .. .. .	3	1	4
2. Tuberculosis, other forms .. .. .	2	-	2
3. Syphilitic disease .. .. .	1	-	1
4. Diphtheria .. .. .	-	-	-
5. Whooping Cough .. .. .	-	-	-
6. Meningococcal infections .. .. .	-	-	-
7. Acute polio-myelitis .. .. .	-	-	-
8. Measles .. .. .	-	-	-
9. Other infective and parasitic diseases	-	2	2
10. Malignant neoplasm, stomach .. .. .	5	4	9
11. Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus ..	19	2	21
12. Malignant neoplasm, breast .. .. .	-	10	10
13. Malignant neoplasm, uterus .. .. .	-	1	1
14. Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	20	39	59
15. Leukaemia, aleukaemia .. .. .	1	1	2
16. Diabetes .. .. .	1	1	2
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system ..	38	52	90
18. Coronary disease, angina .. .. .	54	29	83
19. Hypertension with heart disease .. ..	-	6	6
20. Other heart disease .. .. .	40	44	84
21. Other circulatory disease .. .. .	16	22	38
22. Influenza .. .. .	8	3	11
23. Pneumonia .. .. .	11	10	21
24. Bronchitis .. .. .	18	7	25
25. Other diseases of respiratory system ..	2	1	3
26. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum .. ..	5	7	12
27. Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea ..	-	-	-
28. Nephritis and nephrosis .. .. .	-	1	1
29. Hyperplasia of prostate .. .. .	2	-	2
30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion .. ..	-	-	-
31. Congenital malformations .. .. .	4	2	6
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases	35	36	71
33. Motor vehicle accidents .. .. .	5	1	6
34. All other accidents .. .. .	2	8	10
35. Suicide .. .. .	2	1	3
36. Homicide and operations of war .. ..	-	-	-
Totals	294	291	585



## SECTION II

### SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

#### Water

There was no important extension of the public water supply during the year, except in connection with new building development.

With the exception of twelve cottages which depend on a private well for their water supply, all dwellings in the Borough have a continuous and direct supply from the East Surrey Water Company. The water is derived from deep borings in the chalk and is softened, chlorinated and de-chlorinated before distribution to consumers.

The supply was adequate in quantity throughout the year, the average daily consumption per head of population being about thirty to forty gallons. The quality of the water, as revealed by chemical and bacteriological examination at regular intervals, was invariably reported to be satisfactory.

Samples of the water before and after treatment are submitted twice weekly for bacteriological examination, under private arrangements made by the East Surrey Water Company. In addition, samples of the treated water are examined chemically and/or bacteriologically about forty times a year, under a rota system arranged by the Medical Officers of Health of the districts supplied by the Company; samples are taken in each district at stated times and copies of the Analyst's reports are circulated for the information of the other districts concerned. The following report is typical of those received:

#### Chemical Results in Parts per Million

Appearance	..	Bright, with a very few mineral particles.			
Colour	..	..	..	..	Nil
Odour	..	..	..	..	Nil
Reaction pH	..	..	Alkaline		8.9
Free carbonic acid	..	..	..	..	Absent
Electric conductivity at 20 deg.C	..	..	..	..	235
Total solids, dried at 180 deg.C	..	..	..	..	160
Chlorine in Chlorides	..	..	..	..	21
Alkalinity as calcium carbonate	..	..	..	..	50
Hardness: Total	..	..	..	..	90
Temporary	..	..	..	..	50
Permanent	..	..	..	..	40
Nitrogen in nitrates	..	..	..	..	5.2
Nitrogen in nitrites	..	..	..	less than	0.01
Free ammonia	..	..	..	..	0.044
Albuminoid ammonia	..	..	..	..	0.012
Oxygen absorbed in 4 hours at 27 deg.C	..	..	..	..	0.10
Metals	..	..	..	..	Absent
Residual chlorine	..	..	..	..	Nil

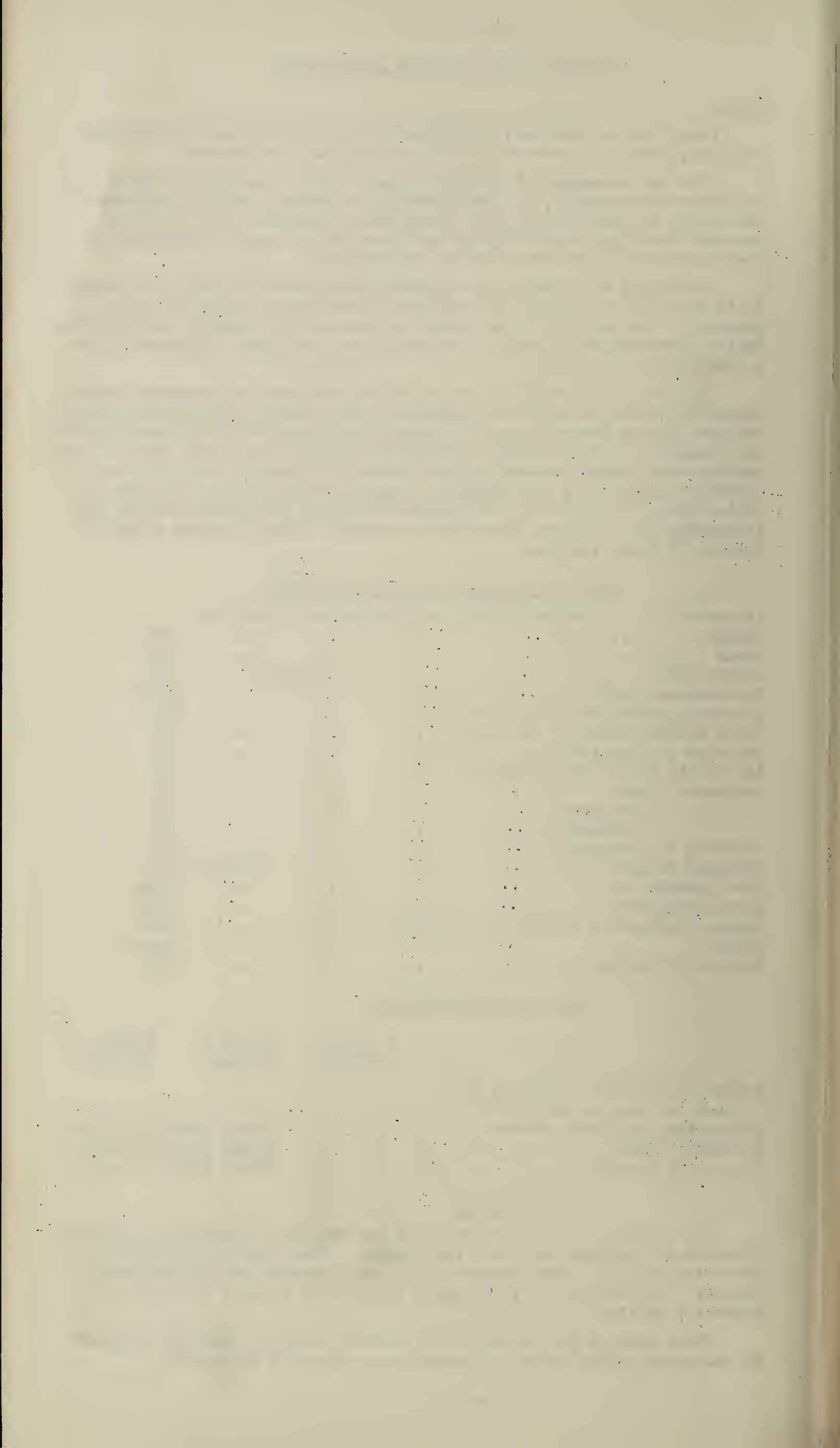
#### Bacteriological Results

	1 day at 37 deg.C	2 days at 37 deg.C	3 days at 20 deg.C.
Number of "Colonies" growing on			
Agar per c.c. or ml. in ..	0	0	0
Presumptive coliform reaction	..	absent from 100 c.c's.	..
Bact.coli (Type I)	..	absent from 100 c.c's.	..
Cl.welchii reaction	..	absent from 100 c.c's.	..

#### Report

"This sample is practically clear and bright in appearance, slightly alkaline in reaction and free from metals. The water is fairly soft in character and has a very moderate content of mineral and saline constituents. It conforms to the highest standard of organic quality and bacterial purity.

These results are indicative of a water which is pure and wholesome in character and suitable for drinking and domestic purposes".





The private well referred to above supplies a mineral water factory and a group of adjoining cottages in the Reigate Heath district. Samples examined during the year were reported to be of satisfactory bacterial quality. A sample from an artesian well supplying another mineral water factory in the Borough showed evidence of slight bacterial impurity; the use of this supply was accordingly discontinued until the source of the contamination had been traced and eliminated.

An empty cottage in the Gatton Park district had a piped supply of water from a spring some two hundred yards distant from the dwelling. In view of the proposed re-occupation of the cottage, samples of the water were submitted to chemical and bacteriological examination. The Analyst reported that the water was free from serious pollution, but was liable to have a corrosive action on metal, which would render it generally unsuitable for drinking and domestic purposes. The cost of connection to the public supply was prohibitive, and the cottage has remained unoccupied.

The public supply was laid on to a pair of semi-detached farm cottages, which had formerly been supplied with water from a shallow well that was known to be grossly polluted with organisms of excremental origin.

#### Drainage, Sewerage and Sewage Disposal

The drainage systems of two houses in Doods Park Road, Reigate, were connected to the public sewer, which had been extended in that area by agreement with the owners of the property. This improvement resulted in the abolition of two cesspools.

The Borough Engineer and Surveyor has supplied the following particulars of important extensions, improvements and developments of the arrangements for drainage, sewerage and sewage disposal in the area:-

##### Housing Estates by Private Development:

- (a) Evesham Road North, Reigate  
80 lineal yards foul sewers.  
80 lineal yards surface water sewers
- (b) Brokes Lodge Estate, Reigate  
450 lineal yards foul sewers  
450 lineal yards surface water sewers.
- (c) Hillfords Place, Earlswood  
275 lineal yards foul sewers.
- (d) Wray Park Estate, Reigate  
100 lineal yards surface water sewers.

##### Extensions of existing surface water sewerage system carried out by the Corporation:-

Orchard Farm, South Park	200	lineal	yards
Battlebridge Lane, Merstham	124	"	"
Holmethorpe Avenue, Redhill	375	"	"
Sandhills Road, Reigate	59	"	"
Boxculverts, Cecil Road and Ladbroke Road, Redhill	90	"	"

##### Repairs to existing foul sewers carried out by the Corporation:-

Earlswood Common, Redhill	160	lineal	yards
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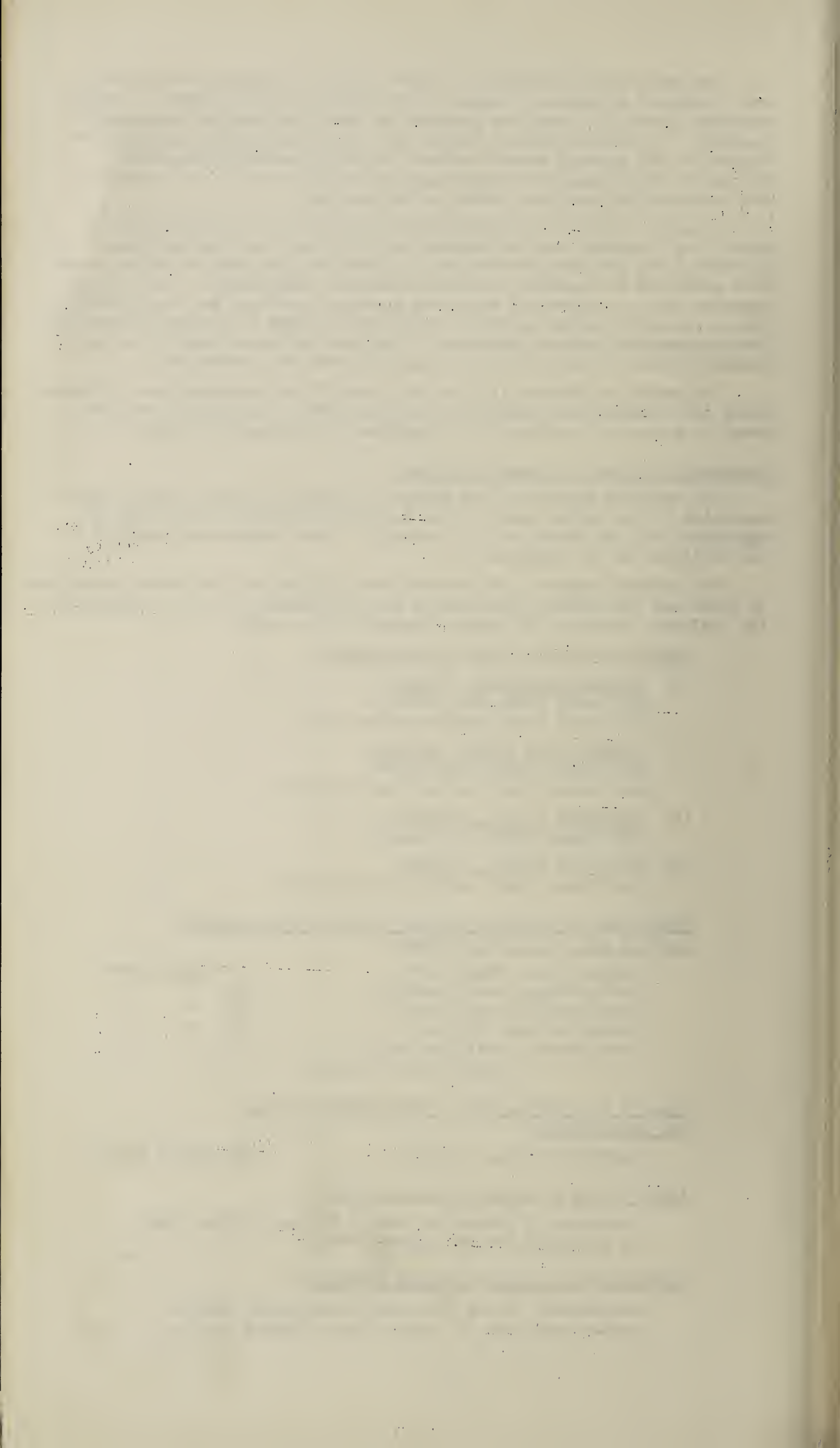
##### Improvements at Sewage Disposal Works:-

Provision of mechanical screen to one detritus tank at Earlswood Sewage Disposal Works.

##### Improvements at Sewage Pumping Stations:-

Replacement of ram pump with electrically driven centrifugal pump at Reigate Heath Pumping Station.





### Closet Accommodation

A pail closet serving an agricultural cottage was abolished, following the installation by the owner of a small septic-tank filter-bed system of sewage disposal.

### Rivers and Streams

The streams and surface water courses in the area are regularly inspected, and all necessary action is taken to render them free from obstruction and pollution.

### Public Cleansing

A weekly collection of house and trade refuse is in operation in all parts of the Borough. More frequent collections are made of trade refuse having a high content of putrescible matter. Special collections are made at the request of tradesmen or householders.

The conditions under which house and trade refuse is temporarily stored are generally satisfactory. Defective and dilapidated receptacles have been replaced, where necessary, though somewhat less readily than in the past, because of recent increases in the price of dustbins.

The separate collection of kitchen waste, which was introduced as a war-time measure, has been continued, and results in the production annually of roughly 700 tons of animal feeding material.

The arrangements made for the extraction and salvage of waste paper, scrap metal, bottles, textiles, sacking, etc., have continued in operation. Refuse having no salvage value is disposed of by incineration, the total quantity so dealt with during the year being about 15,000 tons.

A valuable ancillary service from the public health point of view has been the disposal by incineration at the Corporation Disposal Works of the carcasses of over 2,000 dogs, cats, infected poultry, pigs and other animals.

### Sanitary Inspection of the Area

A classified statement of the number of premises visited, the defects or nuisances discovered, and the action and result of action taken in respect of them will be found in the report of the Chief Sanitary Inspector.

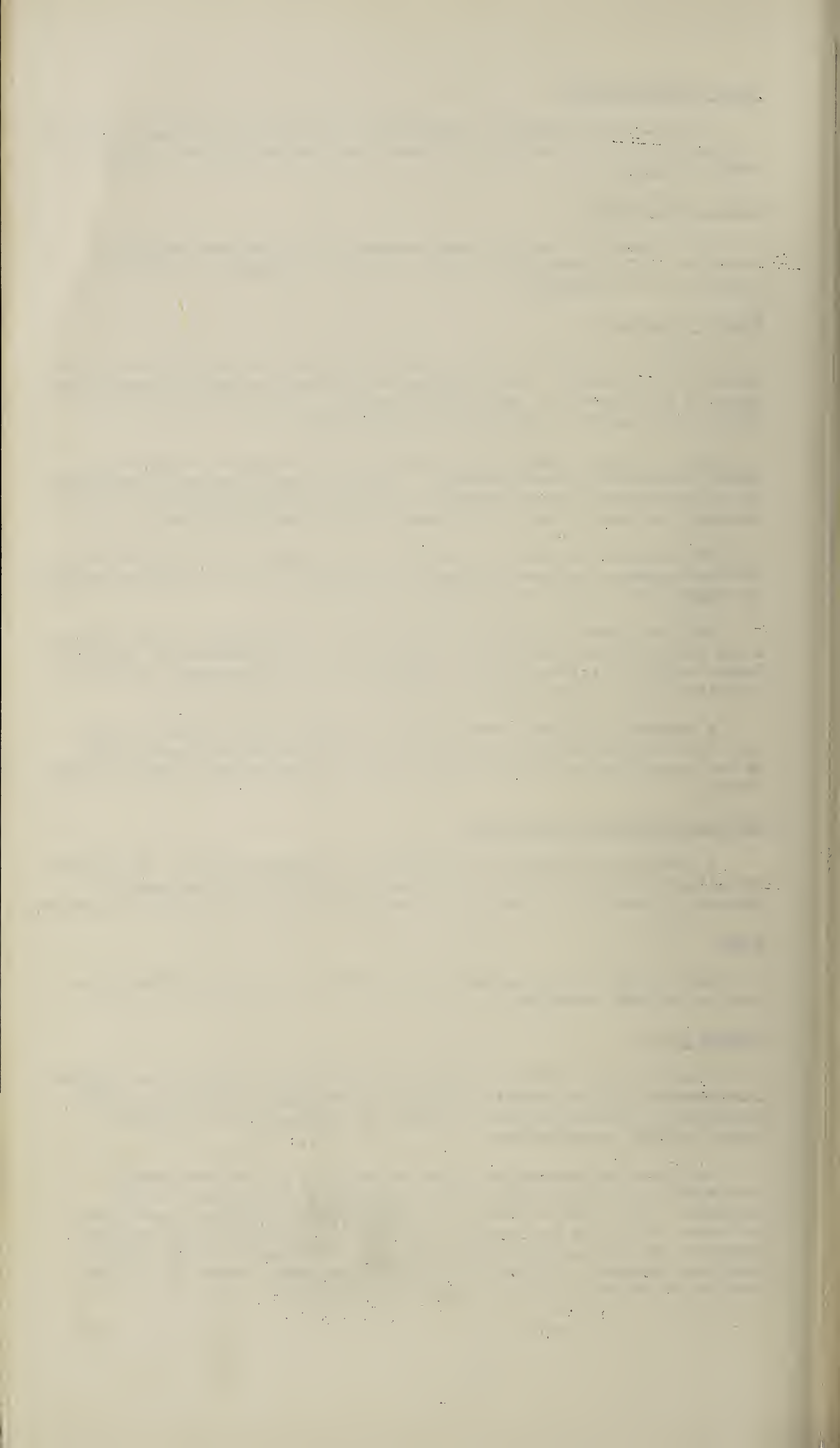
### Shops

Inspections for the purposes of the Shops Act, 1950, continue to be made as and when necessary.

### Camping Sites

Twenty licences (eight new licences and twelve renewals) were granted under Section 269, Sub-section (1) (ii) of the Public Health Act, 1936, in respect of trailer caravans occupied by families who were without proper housing accommodation.

The three privately-owned sites referred to in previous reports continued in use during 1955, with accommodation for a total of 148 caravans. The owner of the site at Battlebridge, Merstham, was allowed to extend its use to accommodate a further 20 caravans, as the sanitary provision already made was considered to be sufficient to deal with the additional number. All these sites were frequently inspected and were found to be reasonably well managed and maintained.





In addition to the above, there is the Corporation's caravan site in Three Arch Road, Redhill, with accommodation for a maximum of 40 caravans. There has been a steady demand for plots on this site, which have been let almost exclusively to applicants having residential or occupational connections with the Borough. A few plots have intentionally been kept vacant and so available for urgent and special cases.

Several of the plots have been in the same occupation since the site was opened in August, 1953, but others have been vacated after short periods, in most cases because the tenants have changed their place of employment or have obtained more suitable housing accommodation. During the year there were 15 new lettings, and 13 families left the site; the total number of families accommodated was 50.

#### Smoke Abatement

Complaints of nuisance from smoke from boiler installations were received in respect of two premises, namely, a laundry and a food factory. In the first case, the smoke emission was for a short period only, and subsequent observations showed that stoking was being performed satisfactorily. The second case was referred for advice to the Area Engineer of the National Industrial Fuel Efficiency Service, with satisfactory results.

The emission of acrid fumes from a cupola flue at a foundry attached to a light engineering works was the subject of further complaints by residents in the vicinity. Reference has been made in a previous report to the special difficulties of this case and to visits made by H.M. Inspector of Alkali etc., Works in connection therewith. A second cupola of improved design was installed towards the end of the year. This has so far been operated alternately with the first and, while it has not resulted in any appreciable improvement, it has not tended to increase the emission of fumes, which is inseparable from the particular process for which the cupola is intended. Fumes from this source may in certain atmospheric conditions be noticeable and possibly unpleasant to neighbouring residents, but they do not constitute a nuisance that could be effectively dealt with under the Public Health Act.

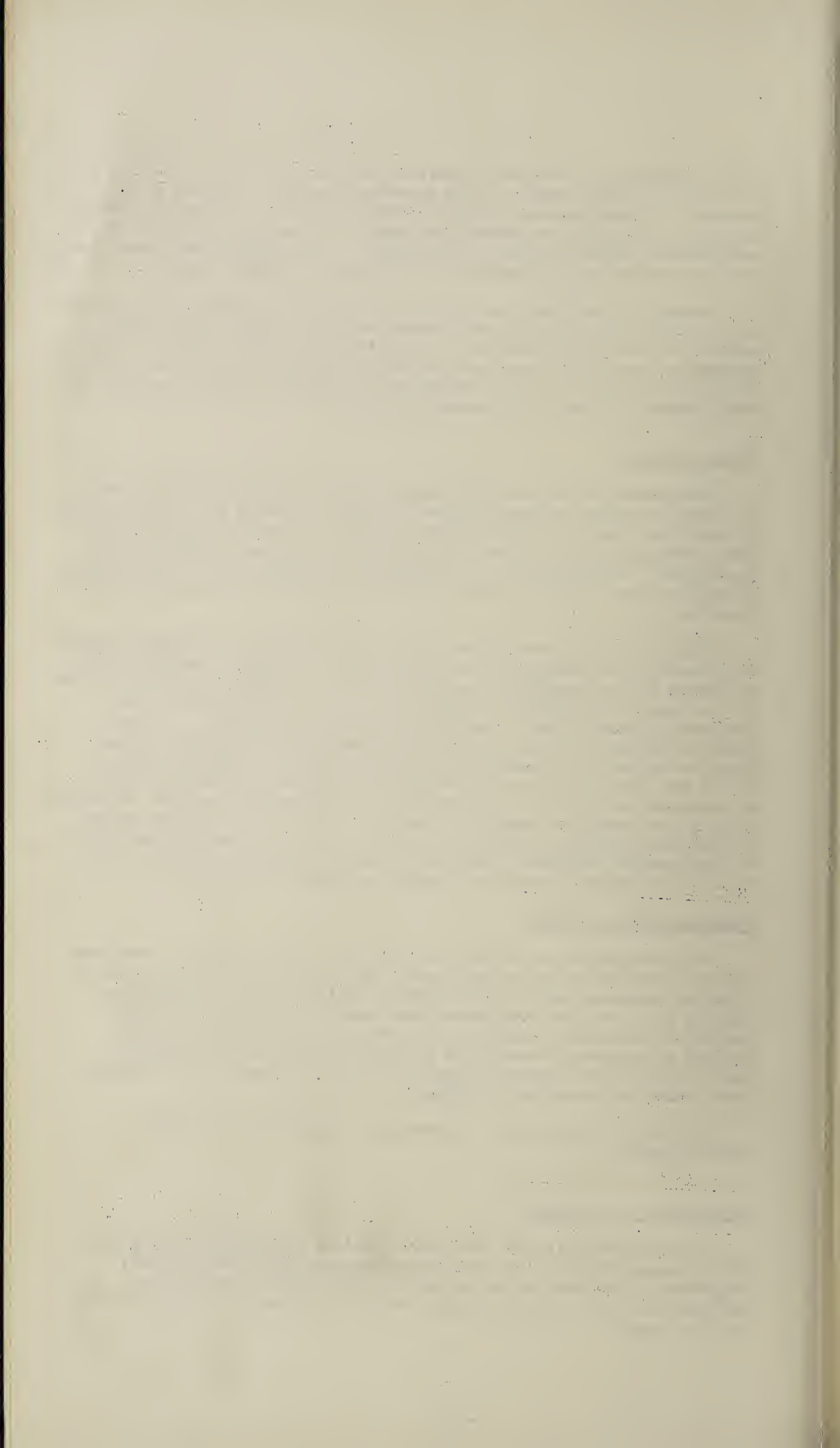
#### Swimming Baths and Pools

Two swimming baths in the area are open to the public. Both are covered baths owned and controlled by the Corporation, and are equipped with the necessary plant for continuous filtration and chlorination. Samples of water from both baths were submitted to analysis at the height of the bathing season. The results showed that the water reached a reasonable standard of bacterial purity and was suitable for swimming bath purposes, though attention was drawn to the somewhat high content of ammoniacal nitrogen.

Copies of the Analyst's reports were supplied to the Baths Superintendent.

#### Eradication of Bed Bugs

The disinfection of verminous premises was carried out by the Disinfecting Officer, under the supervision of the Chief Sanitary Inspector. Particulars of Council and other houses found to be infested and dealt with during the year are set out in a later section of this report.





## Factories Acts, 1937 and 1948

In accordance with Section 128 of the above-named Act, the Table given below indicates the work which has been carried out during 1955:-

### (1) Inspections

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspec- tions	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	27	11	-	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	164	86	-	-
(iii) Others .. .. .	13	9	-	-
TOTALS	204	106	-	-

### (2) Cases in which Defects were found

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which pro- secutions were instituted
	Found	Reme- died	Referred to H.M. Inspector	Referred by H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness ..	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors .. .. .	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary conveniences					
(a) insufficient .. .. .	3	2	-	-	-
(b) unsuitable or defective	12	10	-	4	-
(c) not separate for sexes	2	2	-	-	-
Other offences (not including offences relating to Outwork) ..	2	1	-	-	-
TOTALS	19	15	-	4	-

### (3) Out Work (Sections 110 and 111)

No lists of outworkers were received from local employers. Thirteen lists were received from other Authorities, affecting twenty-two persons, whose premises were visited. No action was necessary.



### SECTION III

#### HOUSING

Returns relating to the demolition, closing and repair of houses under the Housing and Public Health Acts are now submitted quarterly to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government. It is accordingly suggested that the housing statistics usually included in the Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health need not in future be as detailed or comprehensive as in the past. An abridged summary of the housing statistics for the year is set out below.

A total of 153 dwelling-houses were inspected for housing defects, and 23 of these were recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations. Nineteen were considered to be unfit for human habitation and not repairable at reasonable expense and were, accordingly, recommended for action under the Housing Act, 1936; they were dealt with as follows:-

- (1) Ten houses (five in Market Row and five in Feldwick Place, Redhill) were the subject of an Official Representation under Section 25 of the Housing Act, 1936.
- (2) Seven were dealt with under Section 11 of the Housing Act, 1936, Demolition Orders being made in four cases and a Closing Order in one; undertakings not to use the premises for human habitation were accepted in the remaining two cases.
- (3) Action in respect of two houses in Cromwell Road was deferred with a view to their possible inclusion subsequently in a Clearance Area.

Informal notices were served on the owners of 130 houses which were found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation; 92 defective houses of this category were rendered fit by the end of the year. In two cases nuisances were abated in consequence of formal notices served towards the end of 1954 under Section 93 of the Public Health Act, 1936.

#### Overcrowding

Three new cases of overcrowding were reported during the year; seven cases were relieved. Four dwellings were known to be overcrowded at the end of the year, as compared with eight at the end of 1954.

#### HOUSING STATISTICS

##### 1. Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the year

- |   |     |
|---|-----|
| (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) .. .. .   | 153 |
| (b) Number of dwelling-houses (included under (a) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932 .. .. .  | 23  |
| (c) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation, and represented under Section 11 of the Housing Act, 1936 .. .. .                                   | 19  |
| (d) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation, but capable of satisfactory repair at reasonable expense .. .. . | 130 |

##### 2. Remedy of Defects during the year without service of Formal Notices

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the local authority or their officers .. .. .	92
---	----





3. <u>Action under Statutory Powers during the year</u>		
(a)	Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied by owners after service of notices under Public Health Act .. .. .	2
(b)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made .. .. .	4
(c)	Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders .. .. .	3
(d)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which owners gave undertakings under Section 11, Housing Act, 1936 -	
(i)	rendered fit .. .. .	2
(ii)	closed .. .. .	1
(e)	Number of houses or parts of buildings closed -	
(i)	Section 12, Housing Act, 1936 .. .. .	3
(ii)	Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1953 .. .. .	1
4. <u>Housing Act, 1936 - Part IV. Overcrowding</u>		
(a)	(i) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year .. .. .	4
	(ii) Number of families dwelling therein .. .. .	7
	(iii) Number of persons dwelling therein .. .. .	34
(b)	Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year .. .. .	3
(c)	(i) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year .. .. .	7
	(ii) Number of persons concerned in such cases .. .. .	70
(d)	Number of dwelling-houses which again became overcrowded after the local authority had taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding .. .. .	Nil

The Council's Housing Manager has kindly supplied the following particulars with regard to re-housing:-

1.	<u>Number of new dwellings completed during the year:-</u>	193
2.	<u>Families rehoused from waiting list:-</u>	
	In permanent council houses	111
	In permanent council flats	45
	In prefabricated temporary bungalows	5
	In requisitioned property	33
	In miscellaneous property	2
	Total	196
3.	<u>Families transferred from requisitioned property:-</u>	
	To permanent council houses	65
	To permanent council flats	12
	To old people's bungalows	3
	To other requisitioned property	5
	Total	85
4.	<u>Families transferred from miscellaneous properties:-</u>	
	To council houses	1
5.	<u>Families transferred from prefabricated temporary bungalows:-</u>	
	To permanent council houses	8
	To other prefabricated temporary bungalows	1
	Total	9
6.	<u>Families transferred from permanent council dwellings:-</u>	
	To prefabricated temporary bungalows	4
7.	<u>Families transferred from one type of permanent council dwelling to another:-</u>	88
8.	<u>Tenants of other local authorities who have exchanged accommodation with tenants of Reigate Borough Council:-</u>	10
9.	<u>Tenants of private landlords who have exchanged accommodation with tenants of Reigate Borough Council:-</u>	4

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## SECTION IV

### INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

#### Milk Supply

In compliance with the requirements of the Milk (Special Designations) (Special Areas) (No.2) Order, 1954, made by the Minister of Food under the Food & Drugs (Milk, Dairies & Artificial Cream) Act, 1950, all milk sold by retail in the Borough must be pasteurised, sterilised or tuberculin-tested.

Milk supplies are sampled frequently on the lines and for the purposes mentioned in previous reports. The laboratory findings on samples examined in 1955 are summarised in Table III, and show that the milk on sale locally reaches a very high standard of bacterial purity.

One sample of tuberculin-tested milk failed to pass the methylene-blue reduction test for keeping quality; the matter was reported to the Milk Production Officer of the County Agricultural Executive Committee, who is responsible for ensuring satisfactory conditions at the place of production. Milk production at the farm in question was shortly afterwards discontinued.

All samples of pasteurised milk successfully passed the phosphatase test, indicating that the pasteurising process had consistently been carried out efficiently; seventy-six passed the prescribed test for keeping quality, but the test could not be applied to nineteen other samples because of the high atmospheric temperature at the time of the examination.

Eighteen samples of milk submitted to biological examination were reported to be free from living organisms of tuberculosis. Periodic biological testing is confined to milk that will not be subjected to heat treatment before delivery to the consumer. Sampling for this purpose has been somewhat reduced, as two of the five producers concerned have ceased to send raw milk into the Borough, and a third has now made arrangements for the milk to be heat treated.

TABLE III

#### RESULTS OF BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF MILK

##### 1. Tests required by Regulations governing Special Designations

No. of Samples	Methylene Blue			Phosphatase		Turbi- dity
	Satis- factory	Unsatis- factory	Test Void	Satis- factory	Unsatis- factory	Satis- factory
Tuberculin Tested: 23	22	1	-	-	-	-
Tuberculin Tested (Pasteurised): 30	23	-	7	30	-	-
Pasteurised: 65	53	-	12	65	-	-
Sterilised: 11	-	-	-	-	-	11





## 2. Biological Examination

No. of Samples	Tubercle Bacilli +	% Tubercle Bacilli +
18	Nil	0.00

### Milk (Special Designations) Regulations, 1949 & 1950

Licences, as under, for the sale of designated milk were granted to twenty-one dealers retailing milk in the area:-

<u>Type of Licence</u>			<u>Number of Licences</u>	<u>Number of Premises</u>
Pasteurised	..	Pasteuriser's	1	1
"	..	Dealer's	7	12
"	..	Supplementary	5	-
Tuberculin Tested		Dealer's	3	8
"	"	Supplementary	5	-
Sterilised	..	Dealer's	14	20
"	..	Supplementary	1	-

### Meat and Other Foods

The action taken under the Public Health (Meat) Regulations, 1924, is described in the report of the Chief Sanitary Inspector, which also includes an account of unsound food destroyed and particulars of inspections of premises where food is prepared.

### Adulteration, etc.

No special action was necessary under Sections 29 and 31 of the Food & Drugs (Milk, Dairies & Artificial Cream) Act, 1950, nor under the Public Health (Dried Milk) Regulations, 1923 to 1948, and the Public Health (Condensed Milk) Regulations, 1923 to 1948.

All articles submitted to the Public Analyst were examined for the presence of preservatives, in accordance with the Public Health (Preservatives, etc. in Food) Regulations, 1925 to 1940, but no infringements were reported.

### Chemical and Bacteriological Examination of Food

Samples for chemical analysis and samples of milk and ice-cream for biological and bacteriological examination are sent to the Council's Analyst, Mr. D. D. Moir, M.Sc., F.R.I.C.

Twenty-two samples of ice-cream from sixteen retailers were examined for bacterial quality by submission to the methylene-blue reduction test. Twenty were placed within Grades I and II, indicating that a satisfactory standard of cleanliness had been observed in manufacture, storage and handling; two samples, both of pre-packed products manufactured outside the Borough, did not reach this standard and showed evidence of contamination in the process of manufacture. Information with regard to the latter was passed to the Medical Officer of Health of the district concerned, so that the necessary investigations might be made at the place of production. Ice-cream from this source is not now on sale locally.

Three of the samples were taken at one of the two premises registered in the Borough for the manufacture of ice-cream; no ice-cream was manufactured during the year at the other premises so registered.





SECTION V  
PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS  
AND OTHER DISEASES

Provision of Isolation Hospital Accommodation

The provision of hospital accommodation for the isolation and treatment of cases of infectious disease is the responsibility of the Regional Hospital Board. Patients from the Borough are admitted to the isolation hospital at Bletchingley, if the required accommodation and facilities are available; otherwise, they are sent to isolation hospitals in other parts of the Hospital Region.

Uncomplicated cases of the commoner infections, such as measles, mumps and whooping cough, are not usually accepted, unless recommended by the Medical Officer of Health on the grounds that the patient cannot be satisfactorily isolated and treated at home; several such cases were admitted to hospital during the year.

There was no complaint of difficulty or delay in securing the admission of infectious patients to hospital; neither was there complaint of dissatisfaction with the arrangements for ambulance transport or with the quality of the hospital services given.

Notifiable Infectious Diseases

The action taken on receipt of a notification that a person is suffering from an infectious disease is fully described in previous reports.

The exclusion from school of infected persons and contacts is carried out in accordance with the suggestions contained in the joint Memorandum issued in 1927 by the Ministry of Health and Board of Education, and amended in August, 1942.

Table IV shows the numbers of cases of the various notifiable infectious diseases (other than tuberculosis) recorded in the area during the calendar year, classified according to the age of the patient, together with the numbers of cases removed to hospital and the total deaths from each disease. The prevalence of the various diseases is reviewed below.

Small-pox

No case of small-pox was reported in the Borough during the year. A temporary resident who had possibly been in contact with the disease elsewhere was kept under surveillance for the prescribed period.

Scarlet Fever

The prevalence of scarlet fever was again very much below the average and was practically confined to the first half of the year, when there was a fairly localised outbreak amongst children attending junior schools in the Merstham district. Seven cases were removed to hospital, the remaining fourteen being satisfactorily isolated and treated in their own homes. The infection was generally mild in type and relatively free from serious complications.

There were, however, several reported outbreaks of acute illness caused by the organism of scarlet fever, though not presenting the typical symptoms of that disease and, accordingly, not officially notifiable as such. The most serious of these outbreaks occurred in the month of June, when it was reported that a young infant from the Merstham district had died in Queen Mary's Hospital for Children, Carshalton, from a brain abscess from which a particularly virulent strain of the scarlet fever organism had been isolated. A few days later another infant from the same district was admitted to hospital with an acute infection of the ear, due to organisms of the same virulent strain. The infants were next-door neighbours and had frequently been in close contact with each other. In the course of routine enquiries it was ascertained that other members of their respective families had recently suffered from severe tonsillitis, probably of scarlatinal type, and that there had been several such cases in the immediate neighbourhood. Laboratory examination of throat swabs from some 50 convalescent cases and home and school contacts led to the discovery of 23 potentially dangerous carriers, all of whom were immediately put under medical treatment and, where appropriate, were excluded from school or suspended from their employment until known to be free from infection.





TABLE IV

CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE (OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS) NOTIFIED  
DURING THE YEAR 1955

	Cases notified in Age Periods												Totals	Total cases removed to hospital	Total Deaths
	Under 1 year	1 to 2	2 to 3	3 to 4	4 to 5	5 to 10	10 to 15	15 to 20	20 to 35	35 to 45	45 to 65	65 and over			
Scarlet Fever	-	-	1	2	2	13	3	-	-	-	-	-	21	7	-
Whooping Cough	13	18	17	29	29	150	5	1	3	2	-	-	267	7	-
Measles	20	63	91	136	136	549	7	3	6	-	1	-	973	11	-
Pneumonia	-	-	2	1	2	2	5	-	5	4	14	13	48	9	-
Acute Poliomyelitis															
(a) Paralytic	1	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	3	3	-
(b) Non-Paralytic	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	1	-	-	-	-	3	3	-
Meningococcal Infection	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	2	-
Enteric Fever	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-
Dysentery	-	-	1	1	1	1	-	-	2	-	-	-	5	-	-
Malaria	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	1	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	1	-
Food Poisoning	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	1	11	2	2	-	14	12	-
Erysipelas	-	-	-	-	-	2	1	1	1	-	7	1	9	1	-
												1	8	-	-
Totals ..	35	83	112	130	171	720	21	7	30	8	24	14	1355	57	21
Totals 1954 ..	26	23	33	29	42	140	14	4	24	8	13	18	374	50	19

\* All forms



Similar outbreaks, though of much less severity and extent, were reported in the Redhill area in March and in Reigate in September. Both outbreaks were fully investigated and all necessary precautions were taken to prevent spread of infection. At the request of the medical practitioners concerned, the health visitors assisted in the collection of specimens for laboratory examination.

### Whooping Cough

The total number of reported cases of whooping cough was roughly the same as in 1954. Maximum prevalence was observed in the summer months and amongst children in the younger age groups. Multiple cases in the same households were relatively common, the infection in most cases being introduced by children attending infants' departments. Seven cases were removed to hospital, as they could not be satisfactorily isolated and treated at home. No mortality was attributed to whooping cough or its complications.

In the course of their routine visiting of notified cases the health visitors ascertained that roughly one-third of the children affected had completed a course of immunisation against the disease. It was noted, however, that the illness in such cases was generally very mild in type and that many immunised children had escaped infection, though intimately exposed to it.

### Measles

The exceptionally low prevalence of measles in 1954 was followed by a wide-spread outbreak of the disease in the summer months of 1955, when almost every district of the Borough was invaded. The reported number of cases, however, was not above that observed in any other year of epidemic prevalence. The incidence of the disease was, as usual, heaviest amongst pre-school children and entrants to infants' departments, with a remarkably high proportion of multiple cases in the same households. There was, concurrently, an outbreak of whooping cough, and a considerable number of children suffered almost simultaneously from both infections or contracted one whilst convalescing from the other.

Eleven cases were removed to hospital, mainly on grounds of unsatisfactory home conditions; the remainder were reported by the health visitors to be adequately isolated and cared for in their own homes. No mortality was attributed to measles.

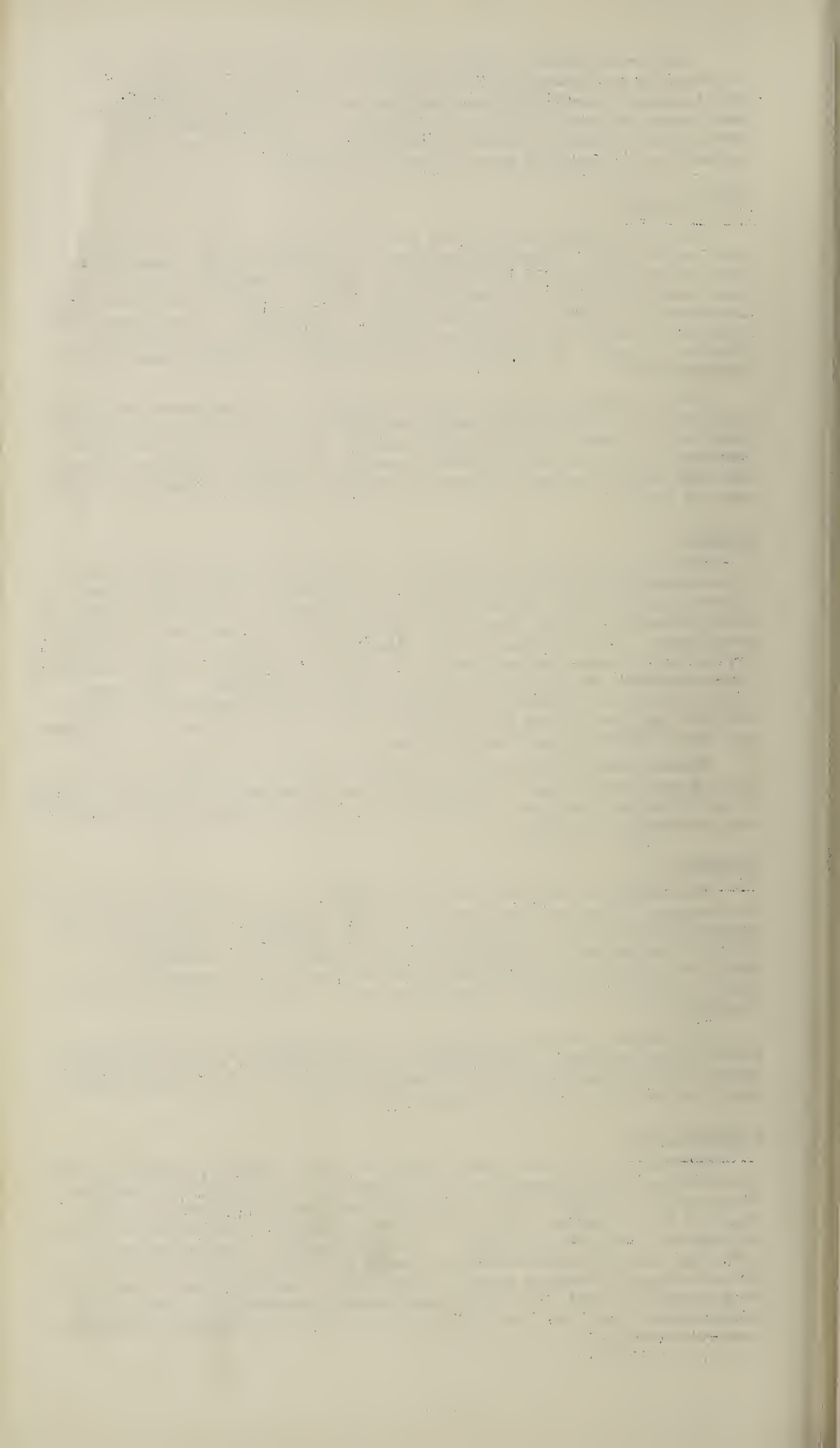
### Pneumonia

The number of notified cases of pneumonia was not above the average for the Borough. Most of them occurred in the early part of the year, when persons in the older age groups were chiefly affected. In roughly one-third of the cases the lung infection was stated to be secondary to influenza, which was probably an antecedent condition in several of the other cases also, though not so designated. Nine cases were treated in hospital.

The deaths ascribed to pneumonia include many due to non-notifiable forms of the disease, so that the rate of mortality is not truly reflected by the ratio of notified cases to recorded deaths; in fact, the number of deaths of notified cases was unusually low.

### Poliomyelitis

This disease was not unduly prevalent in the Borough, notwithstanding the relatively large number of cases reported in neighbouring districts. There were 6 confirmed cases, of which 3 had paralytic symptoms at some stage of their illness; all were removed to hospital and recovered without any serious residual disability. The geographical distribution of the cases and the intervals between the onset of symptoms in successive cases did not suggest infection from a common source, nor from each other. It is probable, however, that there were several intermediate cases of the non-paralytic type that were so mild and of such short duration that they escaped detection.





It is the present practice during the usual season of prevalence of poliomyelitis to advise the investigation in hospital of all suspected cases of the disease. This facilitates the carrying out of diagnostic procedures which in many cases cannot conveniently be undertaken in the patient's home and also has the advantage that, if the suspicion is confirmed, any necessary specialised treatment can be instituted without delay. Six suspected cases were admitted to hospital for investigation during the year, but were found not to be suffering from poliomyelitis.

#### Meningococcal Infection

The two reported cases of infective meningitis were in children, both of whom were admitted to hospital and recovered satisfactorily. Appropriate action was taken in relation to home contacts.

#### Enteric Fever

There was one notification of typhoid fever. This related to a six-year-old boy who had accidentally fallen into a sedimentation tank at the sewage works about three weeks previously. He was treated in hospital and made a good recovery.

Specimens from home contacts were submitted to laboratory examination as a matter of routine and were reported to be negative for enteric organisms. Such organisms were, however, recovered from the sewage in the sedimentation tank, and an attempt was accordingly made to trace their origin; the four inlets to the tank and some of the branch drains connected with them were repeatedly tested, but the results thus obtained were inconclusive and tended to indicate that the contamination was derived from a temporary or intermittent source.

Twelve Borough residents who had been in contact with cases of enteric fever elsewhere were kept under close supervision for the prescribed period.

#### Dysentery

There were five confirmed cases of dysentery, all due to organisms of the Sonné type; two were discovered in the routine investigation of home contacts of notified cases. The illness in each case was of very moderate severity and short duration and did not call for treatment in hospital. Known cases and immediate contacts were kept in quarantine until there was conclusive laboratory evidence of their freedom from infection.

Two localised outbreaks of enteritis suggestive of bacillary dysentery were reported by medical practitioners, but were found on full investigation to be non-infective in origin.

#### Malaria

The only notification of malaria related to a Borough resident who had a recurrence of infection he had contracted while on military service abroad.

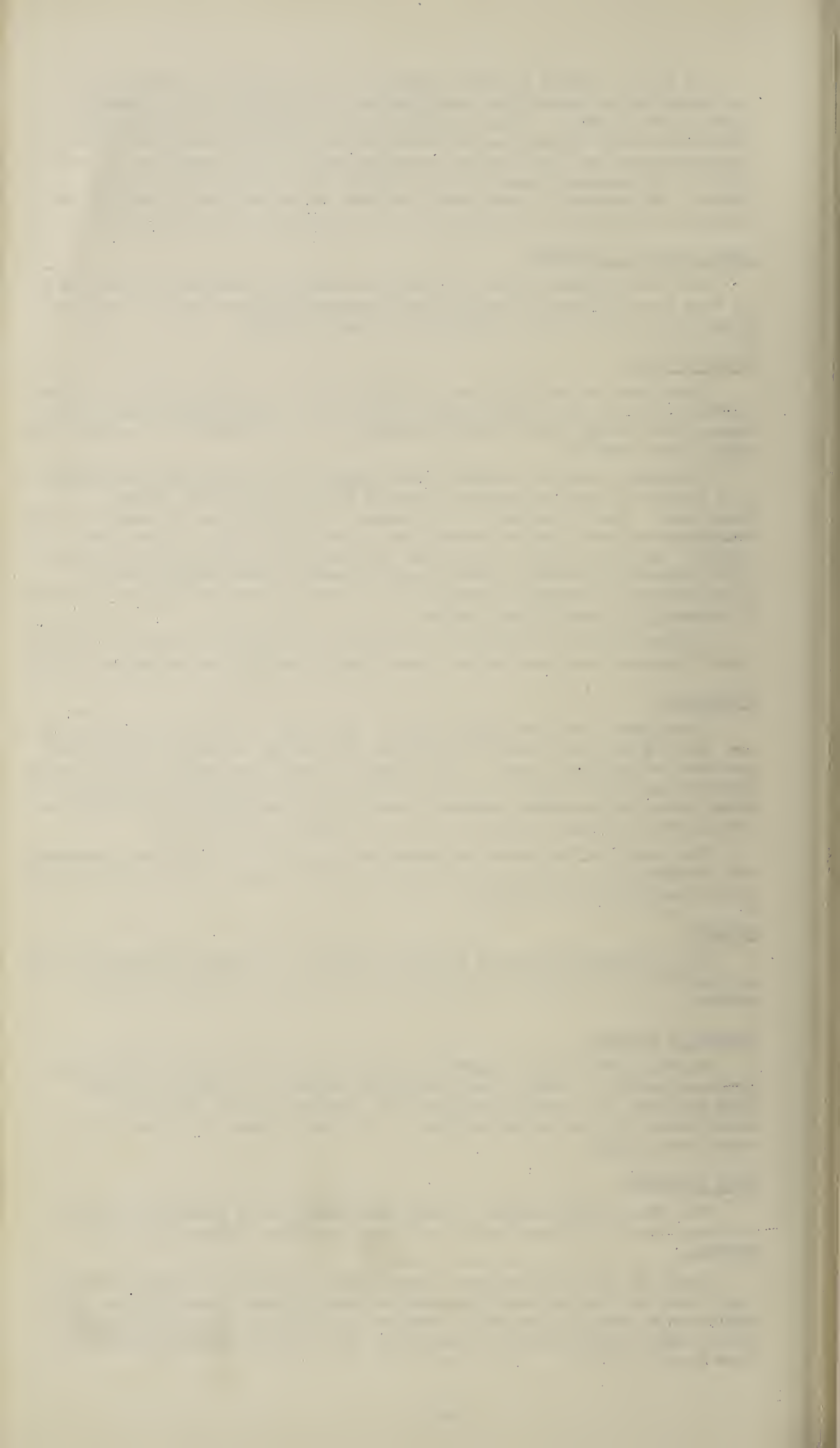
#### Puerperal Pyrexia

Fourteen women were reported to have rise of temperature during the lying-in period. Twelve were treated in hospital, to which seven had been admitted from other districts; the two domiciliary cases were investigated by the health visitors. The total number of cases is not above the average.

#### Food Poisoning

The nine reported cases of food poisoning were of moderate severity and were due to the same type of infecting organism (*Salmonella typhimurium*).

Three of the cases occurred almost simultaneously in members of the same household and two were reported in young children shortly after their admission to hospital for minor surgical operations; the remaining four had no known connection with each other, nor with any suspected source of infection.





Remnants of suspected articles of food, where obtainable, were examined bacteriologically, with negative results. Special attention was given to pastry and confectionery prepared from imported egg products, which had been found on occasion to be heavily infected with organisms of the salmonella group. Infected persons and those who had been in close contact with them were kept under surveillance until shown bacteriologically to be free from infection, and were meanwhile suspended from employment involving the preparation and handling of food.

Two cases of acute gastro-enteritis, at first believed to be caused by food poisoning organisms, were subsequently found on full investigation to be due to non-bacterial causes.

### Erysipelas

The eight reported cases of erysipelas were satisfactorily treated in their own homes, where suitable precautions were taken to prevent spread of infection. All recovered satisfactorily.

### Tuberculosis

Particulars of new cases of tuberculosis which came to the knowledge of the Medical Officer of Health during the year are set out in Table V, together with an analysis of the deaths in the area from this disease during the same period.

The number of new cases of tuberculosis of the lungs represents an incidence rate of 0.53 per 1,000 of the population, as against 0.69 in 1954, and an average rate of 0.78 in the preceding ten years. The decline in prevalence of this form of the disease was most marked amongst females, particularly those in the younger age groups; while there has not been any substantial or sustained reduction in the number of males affected, there has been a noticeable shifting of incidence from the adolescent to the middle-aged. This might in part be due to the preventive measures adopted in relation to children and adolescents who have been in close contact with known sources of infection.

Two of the new cases of tuberculosis of the lungs became known posthumously through the Registrar's Returns of Deaths. Another came to light through the routine testing and examination of all pupils and staff at a Council school from which a case had been reported: it was then found that a member of the teaching staff was suffering from infectious lung tuberculosis, which had hitherto been unsuspected, and she was forthwith suspended from duty. Instances such as this, and there have been several, strongly emphasise the importance of insisting that all teachers in Council schools should submit to periodic X-Ray examination, regardless of their personal wishes in the matter. This is an obvious and elementary precaution which already applies to assistant medical officers, health visitors, district nurses, nursery staff and other County Council servants whose duties bring them into close contact with children; it is no less necessary in the case of teachers, in view of their daily and intimate contact with a highly susceptible section of the child population.

The case rate for non-respiratory forms of tuberculosis was 0.04, which is by far the lowest recorded in the Borough since the disease became officially notifiable in 1912. The decline in prevalence in this case also was mainly confined to females in the younger age groups and was, no doubt, influenced by the preventive measures referred to above. Other factors which have played an important part in reducing the prevalence of non-respiratory tuberculosis are the general improvement in social and economic conditions and the various measures directed to the elimination of infection in milk, including extension of the practice of pasteurisation.

In addition to the new cases, i.e. those notified for the first time, there were reports of 34 previously-known cases of tuberculosis (32 respiratory and 2 non-respiratory), who had been notified elsewhere and had taken up residence in the Borough. These included fifteen new residents of the London County Council's Housing Estate at Merstham. The majority of these are under supervision of the Chest Physician for the area.





TABLE V

New Cases of Tuberculosis, and all Deaths from the Disease in the Area during 1955, classified according to Age, Sex and Type of Disease

Age Periods	Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Under 1 year	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1-5 years	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5-15 years	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
15-25 years	1	2	-	-	-	1	-	-
25-35 years	6	1	-	1	-	-	-	-
35-45 years	4	2	-	-	-	-	2	-
45-55 years	5	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
55-65 years	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
65 & upwards	1	-	1	-	3	-	-	-
TOTALS ..	18	8	1	1	3	1	2	-
Totals 1954 ..	19	14	1	4	3	2	-	-



There were six deaths from tuberculosis, all of which took place in hospitals or sanatoria. The four attributed to lung tuberculosis represent a mortality rate of 0.08 per 1,000 of the population; this coincides with the rate recorded in 1953, which was the lowest experienced in the Borough. The death rate from other forms of tuberculosis, which was 0.04, was slightly above the average for the past ten years.

At the end of the year there were 400 known cases of tuberculosis in the Borough, including 354 (184 males and 170 females) in which the lungs were affected, and 46 (23 males and 23 females) with tuberculosis of other organs. In many of these the disease is quiescent or arrested, but all are regularly visited and supervised by the staff of the local Chest Clinic. The total number represents a reduction of 12 on the corresponding figure for 1954. Twenty-nine notified cases were reported to have made a complete recovery and their names were accordingly removed from the Register.

No action was necessary under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925 (relating to persons suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis employed in the milk trade) nor under Section 127 of the Public Health Act, 1936 (relating to the compulsory removal to hospital of persons suffering from tuberculosis).

The voluntary Tuberculosis Care Committee, which works in close association with local Chest Clinics and Sanatoria, continued its activities on behalf of tuberculous persons and their dependants. The assistance granted during the year included the supply of extra nourishment, fuel, bedding, clothing, sick-room requisites, etc., and the payment of fares, pocket money and other incidental expenses which could not be met from official sources.

### Mass Radiography

Mass Radiography Surveys were conducted at the Community Centre, Merstham, from 26th September to 8th October and at the Colman Institute, Redhill, from 10th to 22nd October. Special sessions were arranged for employees in local industrial undertakings, school teachers, youth organisations, members of the Council's staff, etc., in addition to the sessions for the general public.

The findings of the Surveys are briefly summarised as follows:-

<u>MERSTHAM</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Total number examined .. .. .	390	694	1084
Respiratory tuberculosis, ACTIVE ..	-	-	-
"                    "          INACTIVE	18	30	48
Non-tuberculous abnormalities ..	11	3	14

<u>REDHILL</u>			
Total number examined .. .. .	1658	1964	3622
Respiratory tuberculosis, ACTIVE ..	2	2	4
"                    "          INACTIVE	49	67	116
Non-tuberculous abnormalities ..	57	31	88

The number of cases of active tuberculosis recorded at these Surveys is equivalent to an incidence rate of 0.85 per 1,000 persons examined. The corresponding rate recorded at similar Surveys elsewhere in the Hospital Region was 0.98.

There was, in addition, a special Mass Radiography Survey restricted to the operatives and clerical staffs of certain factories and industrial undertakings in Redhill and the immediate neighbourhood. The findings were as follows:-

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Total Number examined .. .. .	1162	466	1628
Respiratory Tuberculosis, ACTIVE ..	3	-	3
"                    "          INACTIVE	51	13	64
Incidence rate of active tuberculosis per 1,000 persons examined ..			1.8
Non-tuberculous abnormalities ..	40	4	44
Cases still under investigation ..			3





## Vaccination and Immunisation

### Vaccination against Small-pox

Vaccination against small-pox is not at present undertaken at the County Council's Clinics in the Borough. Particulars of notifications of vaccinations performed by private medical practitioners during the year are as follows:-

	0 - 1 <u>year</u>	1 - 5 <u>years</u>	5 - 15 <u>years</u>	Over 15 <u>years</u>	<u>Total</u>
Primary Vaccination	341	24	25	18	408
Re-vaccination	-	6	39	128	173

It is estimated that 51.8 per cent. of the babies born in 1955 were successfully vaccinated against small-pox before the end of that year. This is the highest acceptance rate for several years and is a substantial and welcome improvement on the 30 per cent. to 40 per cent. acceptance of infant vaccination in the period immediately following the introduction of the National Health Service Act, under which compulsory powers in relation to small-pox vaccination were abolished. The acceptance rate for England and Wales in 1955 was roughly 35.0 per cent.

A considerable number of the re-vaccinations were of persons who were required to produce certificates of recent vaccination to enable them to travel abroad. Such certificates must be authenticated by the Medical Officer of Health of the district in which the person normally resides.

### Immunisation against Diphtheria

The numbers of children who completed a full course of immunisation during the year, either at the County Council's Clinics or under private arrangements, are as follows:-

<u>Under 1 year</u>	<u>1 - 2 years</u>	<u>2 - 3 years</u>	<u>3 - 4 years</u>	<u>4 - 5 years</u>	<u>5 - 10 years</u>	<u>10 - 15 years</u>	<u>Total</u>
486	130	21	9	3	89	33	771

In addition, reinforcing doses of diphtheria prophylactic were given to 621 persons, most of whom were school entrants who had completed a course of immunisation three or four years previously.

The figures relating to primary immunisation of infants are very satisfactory and indicate that three infants out of four had been artificially immunised before reaching their first birthday. This represents a very high rate of acceptance, as immunisation is not usually offered to infants under the age of three months. The present practice of combining whooping cough vaccine with diphtheria prophylactic for simultaneous inoculation against both diseases has greatly encouraged and stimulated parents to have their children immunised. The virtual disappearance of diphtheria has tended to lessen the demand for artificial protection against it, whereas it is fairly generally realised that whooping cough still appears in epidemic form and is the most fatal and disabling of the infectious diseases of early childhood. The majority of parents are accordingly eager to have their children protected against whooping cough and are willing to accept immunisation against diphtheria at the same time.

It is estimated that at least 65.0 per cent. of children under the age of five years and 80.0 per cent. of those between the ages of five and fifteen years have been artificially immunised against diphtheria. While the immunity index of the child population is maintained at this level, there is little likelihood of extensive spread of the disease should it, unfortunately, be introduced into the Borough.

### Vaccination against Whooping Cough

The County Council's scheme for vaccination against whooping cough is directed mainly to infants under the age of one year, in whom the disease is most likely to be fatal or followed by serious complications. The numbers of children who completed a full course of immunisation during the year, either at the County Council's Clinics or under private arrangements, are as follows:-



<u>Under 1</u> <u>year</u>	<u>1 - 2</u> <u>years</u>	<u>2 - 3</u> <u>years</u>	<u>3 - 4</u> <u>years</u>	<u>4 - 5</u> <u>years</u>	<u>5 - 15</u> <u>years</u>	<u>Total</u>
457	114	13	5	6	176	771

Reinforcing injections of whooping cough vaccine were given to 72 children who had completed a course of primary immunisation four or five years previously.

Whooping cough vaccination is rapidly gaining in popularity; almost 70.0 per cent. of the babies born in 1955 had completed a course of immunisation before the end of the year. While not affording absolute protection against the disease, whooping cough vaccination with the antigens at present available confers a high degree of immunity in a large proportion of cases and reduces the severity and duration of the illness in immunised children who are attacked.

#### Measles Prophylaxis

Immune serum is available through the Public Health Department for the total or partial immunisation of susceptible measles contacts. Only one request for serum was received during the year.

#### B.C.G. Vaccination against Tuberculosis

For several years it has been the practice to offer protective inoculation, by B.C.G. vaccine, to selected children from households in which there is an infectious case of tuberculosis. This work is undertaken mainly by the Chest Physicians, with occasional assistance from the Divisional Medical Staff.

The scheme was recently extended to include thirteen-year-old pupils at County Council schools. Subject to the consent of their parents, the pupils in this age group are skin tested to ascertain if they have already had a primary tuberculous infection, and those giving a negative result are offered B.C.G. vaccination. Nine schools in the Borough were dealt with during the year, with the following results:-

Number of children in age group	..	..	..	1004
Number consenting to treatment	..	..	..	655
Percentage consenting to treatment	..	..	..	65.2%
Number Mantoux tested	..	..	..	612
Number of negative reactors	..	..	..	520
Percentage giving negative reaction	..	..	..	84.9%
Number vaccinated	..	..	..	520
Percentage of negative reactors vaccinated	..	..	..	100%
Number of vaccinated children re-tested	..	..	..	230
Number of these giving positive reaction	..	..	..	203
Percentage giving positive reaction	..	..	..	88.3%

The percentage acceptance of testing and vaccination and of negative reactors successfully vaccinated are very satisfactory and compare favourably with the corresponding findings in other districts.

#### Protection against other Diseases

Prophylactic inoculation against other infectious diseases, such as enteric fever, cholera, yellow fever, etc., is necessary in the case of persons proposing to visit foreign countries where these diseases are endemic, and is usually undertaken at specified centres. The International Certificate required in such cases must be authenticated by the Medical Officer of Health of the district in which the person resides.







## Non-notifiable Infectious Diseases

Information relating to the prevalence of non-notifiable infectious and contagious diseases is necessarily incomplete, and is obtained mainly from reports of school absentees and from the Registrar's weekly returns of deaths. Cases also come to notice through enquiries by employers with regard to quarantine periods, requests for disinfection, casual communications by private medical practitioners and applications for domestic assistance under the Home Help Scheme. The occurrence of cases at the Day Nursery and in residential children's homes is also reported.

The information obtained from all these sources did not disclose any unusual or excessive prevalence or severity of non-notifiable infectious disease. There was an outbreak of influenza, mainly affecting the elderly and in many cases complicated by pneumonia, in the early months of the year; at the same period there was a sharp increase in the number of sickness claims submitted to the local office of the Ministry of National Insurance, in part attributable to the same cause. Otherwise the prevalence of non-notifiable disease was exceptionally low. The reported cases included 51 of chicken-pox (chiefly from the South Park district), 20 of mumps (in one case complicated by encephalitis), 10 of german measles and one each of gastro-enteritis, infective jaundice, cellulitis and severe shingles. Six of these cases were removed to hospital for observation or treatment.

### Disinfection

There are facilities at the Disinfecting Station for the sterilisation of articles that have been exposed to infection and for the cleansing of verminous persons and their belongings. Provision has been made for the treatment by formalin vapour of books and other articles which are unsuitable for disinfection by super-heated steam. The work undertaken at the Disinfecting Station during the year is summarised in a later section of this report.

### Uncleanliness

#### Pediculosis

The information available from various sources, and more particularly from the returns of routine cleanliness inspection of school children, would indicate that the incidence of infestation by head and body lice continues to be exceptionally low. Not a single instance of verminous infestation of person or clothing was encountered, and relatively few of pediculosis of the scalp. The latter was practically confined to school children, of whom thirty-one were found to be so affected in varying degree when examined by the Health Visitors. This is equivalent to an incidence rate of rather less than 0.5 per cent. of the total number of children examined. None of the cases was of such degree as to require compulsory cleansing under the arrangements made for that purpose, and only two were so infested that they were excluded from school until they had been satisfactorily cleansed. Cleansing, where necessary, was undertaken by the parents, with the advice and assistance of the Health Visitors.

#### Scabies

Four adults and three school children were reported to be suffering from scabies and were satisfactorily cleansed by the staff of the Health Department, at the request of the medical practitioners concerned. Arrangements were made for the treatment of immediate contacts and for the disinfection of infected bedding and clothing. The total number of cases is not greater than usual.



BOROUGH OF REIGATE  
ANNUAL REPORT OF THE  
CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR  
FOR THE YEAR 1955

Public Health Department,  
Caberfeigh,  
Hatchlands Road,  
Redhill.

To the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I submit herewith my twenty-second Annual Report which relates to the work of the Sanitary Inspectors during 1955.

The duties required to be carried out by the Inspectors are those set out in the Sanitary Officers' (Outside London) Regulations, 1935, with the exception of those relating to the supervision of scavenging. In addition, the Chief Sanitary Inspector is required, in co-operation with the Housing Manager, to advise the Housing Sub-Committee, which is responsible for the duty of selecting tenants for vacant housing accommodation, on the housing need of applicants for Council houses. He is also required to report from time to time to the Town Planning Committee on the management of the Corporation's residential caravan site, which was opened for about 35 to 40 caravans on the 31st August, 1953; this work involves the interviewing of applicants, the allocation of plots, the day-to-day problems which inevitably arise with such a project and, with the assistance of a residential caretaker, the general care and maintenance of the site.

The report is set out under headings which follow much the same lines as in previous years. There were staff changes during the year and for a period of eight months the staff was depleted by one Inspector; in consequence, work was considerably hindered at a time when priority had to be given to implementing new legislation dealing with the clearance of unfit houses, housing repairs and improvement, and rent increases. It is a tribute to the energy and enthusiasm of the staff that the survey which it was necessary to make in connection with the proposals for slum clearance was carried through satisfactorily in time for the statutory return to be made to the Minister of Housing & Local Government by the date specified, namely, 30th August, 1955.

It was impossible for a greater part of the year to carry out fully the routine inspections of food premises, shops, factories, etc.. The increasing duties caused by new legislation, coupled with changes of staff, made it difficult too for the Inspectors to devote adequate time to the "follow-up" of notices and the supervision of works in progress.

Towards the end of the year the staff establishment was filled, and I have pleasure in recording their diligence and loyalty. I would refer especially to the retirement of a colleague for many years, Mr. F. G. Stewart, who was employed in the Department as Disinfecting Officer since January, 1914, and who was a most hard-working, conscientious and trustworthy officer. In conclusion, I wish to express my thanks to Dr. Bingham, Medical Officer of Health, for his consideration and advice.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,  
Your obedient Servant,

G. JANES

Chief Sanitary Inspector

25th July, 1956







## Infectious Disease, Disinfection and Disinfestation

During the year 101 visits of enquiry were made on behalf of the Medical Officer of Health in connection with cases of infectious disease and food poisoning. The purpose of such an enquiry is to try and ascertain the cause or origin of the illness, to trace contacts or contaminated or infected food, and if possible to assist in preventing the occurrence of further cases.

The disinfection or disinfestation of material which may have become infected or infested as a result of infectious illness or vermin infestation is carried out at the Council's Disinfecting Station at the Disposal Works, Redhill. This may be done either in the steam disinfecting apparatus or by chemical means in a compartment specially constructed for this purpose, which can be sealed and rendered air-tight. This work is also carried out on behalf of the neighbouring Rural District Councils of Dorking & Horley, and Godstone.

Detail of the work is given in the Table on page 31.

The infestation of dwelling-houses by vermin, such as bed-bugs and fleas, is comparatively rare in this district. In 1955 it was necessary only in two cases to make inspections for this purpose, when it was found that infestations by bed-bugs were slight. The houses were successfully cleared by a single application of a liquid insecticide containing D.D.T. Other premises which were disinfested included:-

- (a) A store-room behind a retail newsagent's shop, which was found to be infested by animal fleas.
- (b) The attic of a house on the new L.C.C. Housing Estate at Merstham, which was heavily infested by flies.
- (c) A room in the house occupied by an elderly person unable properly to care for himself, and who had become infested by fleas and body lice.
- (d) Kitchens, etc., of St. Anne's Institution, Redhill (Surrey County Council), and premises occupied by the Redhill Group Hospital Management Committee, were periodically treated for cockroaches, under contract arrangements with those authorities.
- (e) School canteen kitchens under the control of the County Education Authority were sprayed with a liquid insecticide during the fly-breeding season to prevent the contamination of food by flies.

### Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933

### Slaughter of Animals (Amendment) Act, 1954

Thirteen applications by slaughtermen for the renewal of their licences under the above-mentioned Acts were granted.

No infringement of the Acts was noted during 1955.

### Slaughterhouses Act, 1954

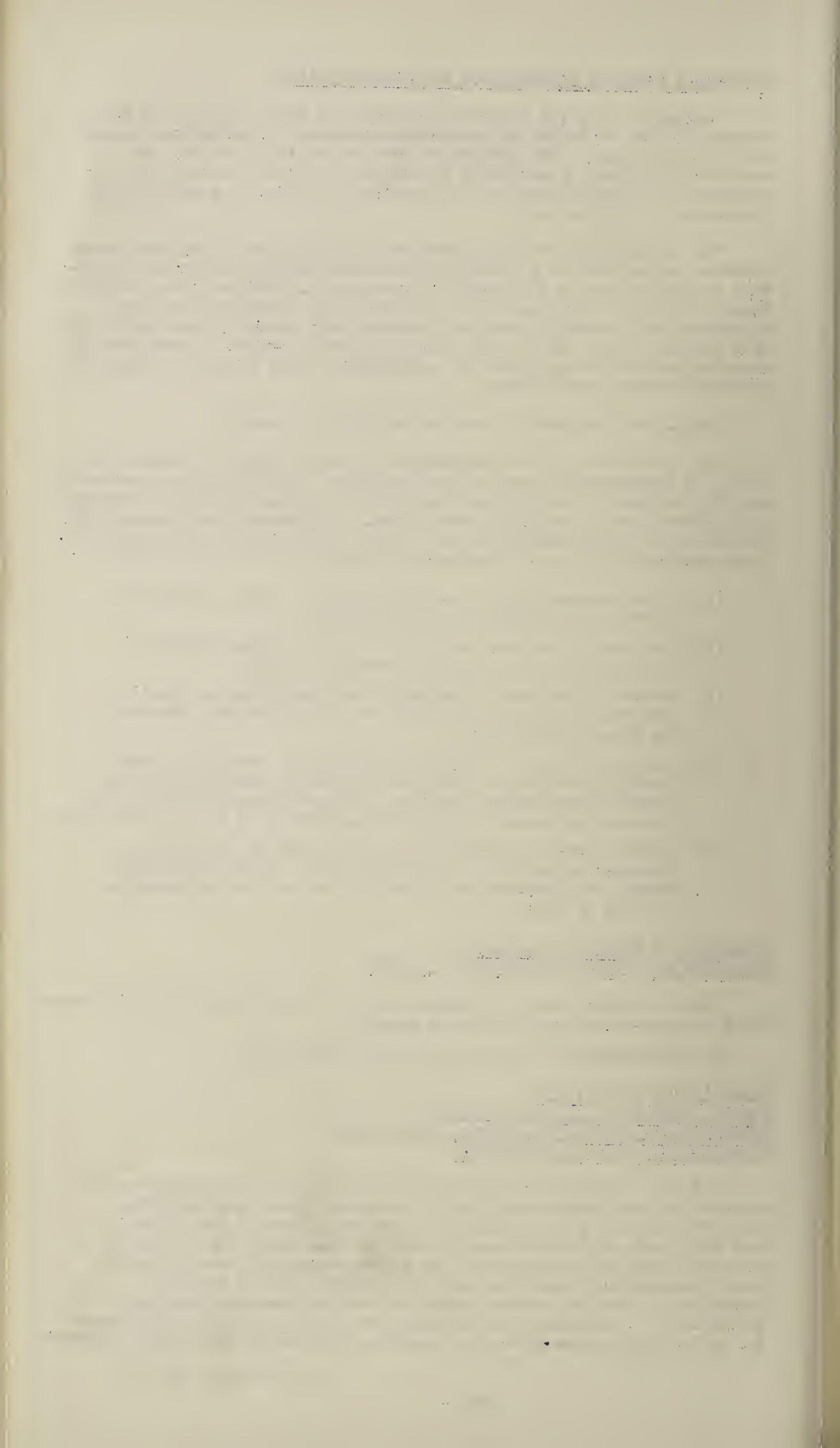
### Food & Drugs Act, 1938 - Section 57

### Public Health (Meat) Regulations, 1924 - 1952

### Slaughtering and Meat Inspection

The year under review was the first full year of the slaughter of animals for food under conditions of decontrol since October, 1939. The circumstances of the transition which took place in July, 1954, were fully set out in the Annual Report for that year, and it can now be stated that the consultations and negotiations with trade interests which preceded the transition were well worth while and laid the foundation of what so far has proved to be a satisfactory practical arrangement - resulting in slaughtering and meat inspection being carried out in far better conditions than have ever existed before in this district.

(Continued on page 32)



DETAILS OF WORK CARRIED OUT IN CONNECTION WITH DISINFECTION AND DISINFESTATION  
AT THE CORPORATION DISINFECTING STATION, 1955

	Steam Disinfection		Chemical Disinfection		Vermineous Persons Cleansed	Rooms	
	From Dwelling- houses	Institu- tions, etc.	Dwelling- houses	Institu- tions, etc.		Disinfected	Disinfested
<u>REIGATE BOROUGH</u>							
Infectious & Other Diseases	434	53	18	60	-	30	-
Vermin - Scabies	7	-	-	-	-	-	-
Vermin - Bed-bugs, etc.	22	-	-	-	-	-	2
Miscellaneous	382	267	-	-	-	10	-
TOTALS	845	320	18	60	-	40	2
<u>DORKING &amp; HORLEY R.D.C.</u>							
Infectious & Other Diseases	37	-	-	-	-	-	-
Miscellaneous	29	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTALS	66	-	-	-	-	-	-
<u>GODSTONE R.D.C.</u>							
Vermin - Scabies	11	-	-	-	-	-	-
Vermin - Other	76	-	-	-	-	-	-
Miscellaneous	55	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTALS	142	-	-	-	-	-	-
<u>CATERHAM &amp; WARLINGHAM U.D.C.</u>							
Vermin	37	-	-	-	-	-	-
Miscellaneous	3	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTALS	40	-	-	-	-	-	-

In addition to the above, 18 library books were disinfected by formalin vapour and returned to the libraries from which they had been borrowed.





Slaughtering has been concentrated at one slaughterhouse only - at High Street, Merstham - by the East Surrey Master Butchers' Association Ltd. - in premises which were reconstructed, enlarged and modernised the previous year, and which have been licensed by the Local Authority until 31st July, 1959. The slaughterhouse has been well managed and maintained; the conditions imposed by the Town Planning Authority when permission to make an extension was granted have been observed by the Company, and there has been no cause for either nuisance or annoyance to interfere with residential amenities in that neighbourhood. Two other private slaughterhouses licensed annually were not used during the year.

This local concentration of slaughtering has made it possible to carry out meat inspection more efficiently, but it has increased the amount of time that has to be spent on this work, as it has generally been necessary for the Inspector to make two routine visits per slaughtering day - one at about midday and the other in the late afternoon - so as to prevent interruption of slaughtering and dressing of the carcasses, and their subsequent storage in the chilling-room. The two Inspectors who normally carry out this work take turns of duty during alternate weeks.

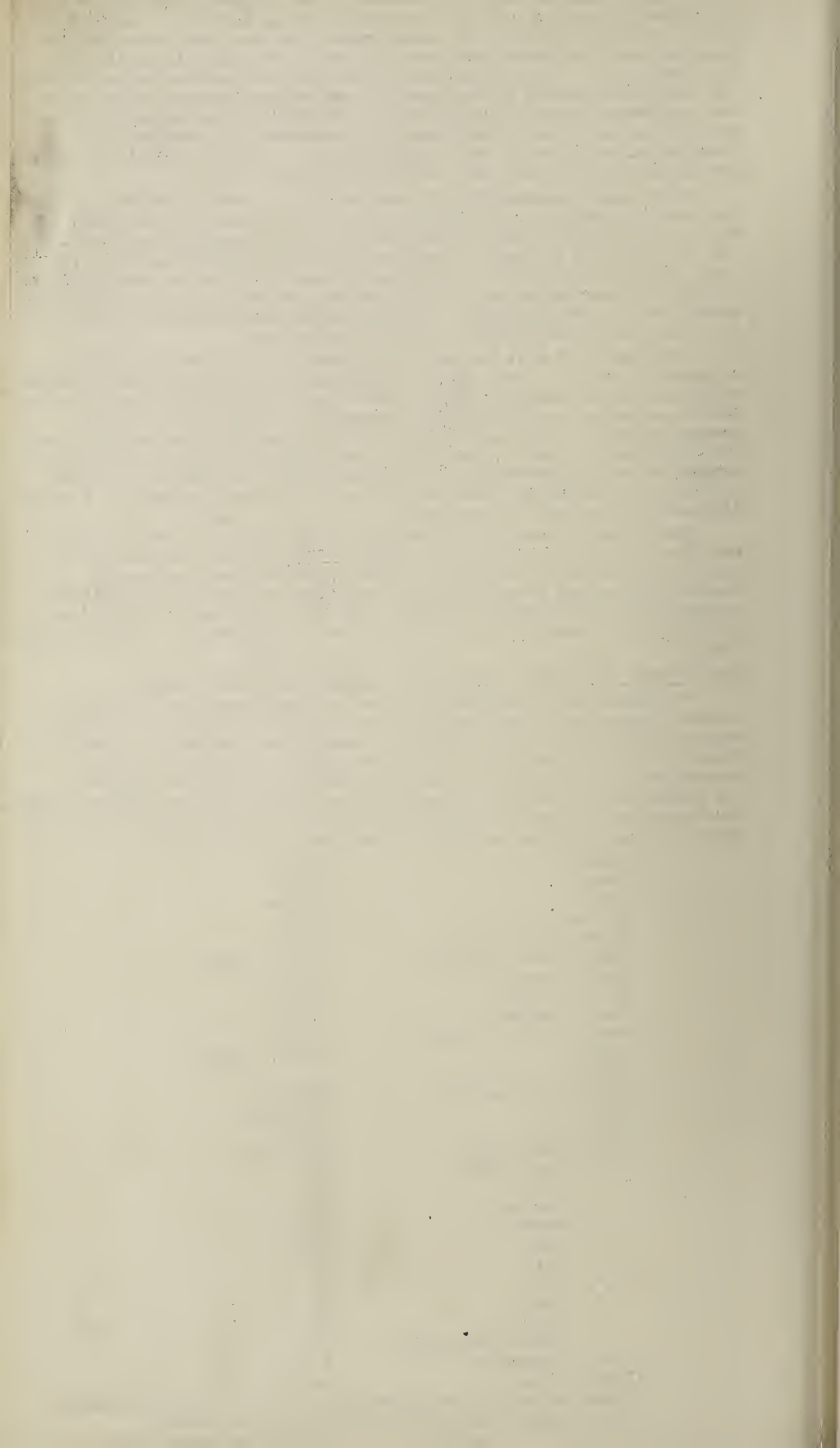
The results of meat inspection are given in the accompanying Table on pages 33 and 34. They show by comparison with previous years a marked reduction in the amount of disease found, particularly if flukey livers in cattle and sheep, and pneumonia and congestion of the lungs in pigs (common causes of condemnation of the organs concerned) are excluded from the statistics. This is due to very few "casualty" animals now being brought to the slaughterhouse; it may also be an indication of careful and selective buying of livestock, and/or the gradual elimination of animal diseases, particularly tuberculosis.

The licence granted to the occupier of the Knacker's Yard at Three Arch Road, Redhill, was endorsed to the effect that the premises may be used for the slaughter of horses. These premises have continued in regular use and are frequently inspected, thus ensuring a satisfactory standard of cleanliness and hygiene. Bye-laws for knacker's yards were adopted by the Council during 1955, and came into operation on 1st February, 1956.

#### Food & Drugs Act, 1938 - Section 10 - Inspection of Other Foods

The inspection of foodstuffs other than meat takes place during the routine inspection of food premises, and also at the request of traders when the condition of some particular commodity is thought to be doubtful. During 1955 the following foodstuffs were found, as a result of these inspections, to be unfit for human consumption, and were surrendered to the Inspectors for suitable disposal at the Council's Refuse Disposal Works, where such food as cannot be used in the waste food plant and subsequently sold for animal feeding purposes is destroyed by incineration.

Bacon	48-lbs.
Cheese	80-lbs.
Lard	28-lbs.
Coffee	1½-lb.
Sugar and Preserves	56-lbs.
Flour, Bread, Biscuits	1-cwt. 3-qtrs.
Ham - canned	1½-cwt.
Meat and Offal	2½-cwts.
Meat - canned	11-cwts.
Paste (Meat and Fish)	2 jars
Fish	3-cwts. 1-qtr.
Chickens	9
Sweets and Chocolate	12½-cwts.
Milk	29 gallons
Milk Powder	9-lbs.
Tinned Fruit Pulp	168 tins
" Fruit Juice	28 "
" Beans	29 "
" Carrots	4 "
" Fruit	384 "
" Fish	202 "
" Milk	87 "
" Peas	96 "
" Soup	18 "
" Tomatoes	213 "
" Tomato Concentrate	60 "
" Vegetables	8 "
Fruit, dried	90-lbs.
Tinned & packet food (miscellaneous) - 355 tins and packets	
This work involved 103 visits by the Inspectors.	



MEAT INSPECTION

CARCASES AND OFFAL INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED IN  
WHOLE OR IN PART

	Cattle excluding Bulls & Cows	Bulls	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
<u>NUMBER KILLED</u>	563	9	141	411	896	2,633
<u>NUMBER INSPECTED</u>	563	9	141	411	896	2,633
<u>ALL DISEASES EXCEPT TUBERCULOSIS AND CYSTICERCI</u>						
Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	2	-	-	5
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	204	1	43	2	42	731
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci	36.2	11.1	31.9	0.5	4.7	28.0
	♂ (11.0)	♂ (0.0)	♂ (14.2)		♂ (1.2)	※ (3.2)
<u>TUBERCULOSIS ONLY</u>						
Whole carcasses condemned	2	-	-	1	-	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	43	1	18	-	-	25
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	8.0	11.1	12.8	0.25	-	0.95
<u>CYSTICERCOSIS</u>						
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	1	-	-	-	-	-
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration	1	-	-	-	-	-
Generalised and totally condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-

♂ Percentage excluding Distomatosis

※ Percentage excluding Pneumonia and  
Congestion of Lungs.

The total weight of carcasses and offals condemned was  
5 tons 2 quarters 17 lbs.

There were no horses slaughtered for human consumption during the period.

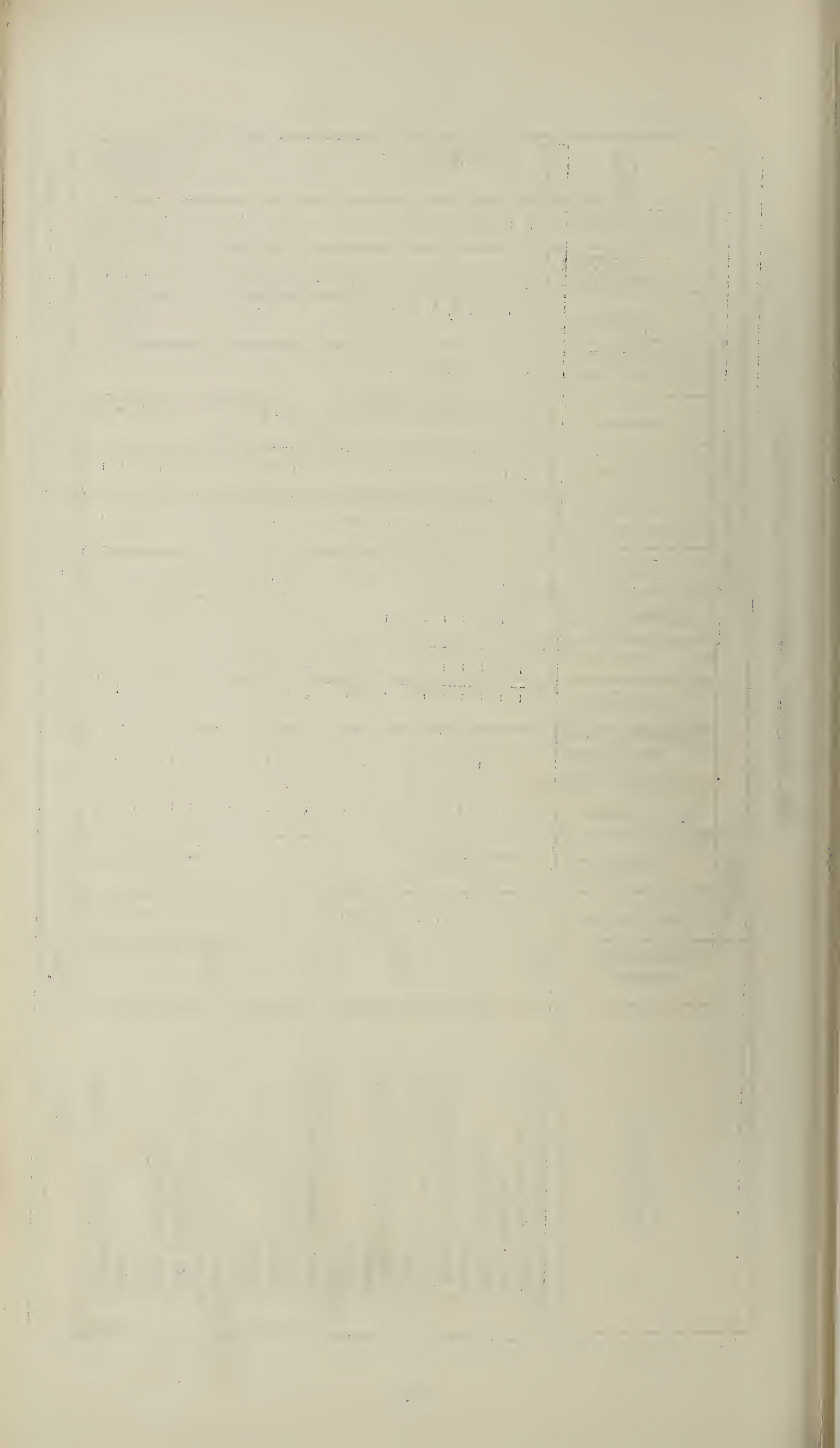






# MEAT INSPECTION - REASONS FOR CONDEMNATION

DESCRIPTION	Number Slaughtered	Tuber- culosis		Other Conditions												TOTAL	
		Generalised	Localised	Fever	Dropsy &/or Emaciation (also Immaturity)	Congestion	Injury	Septicaemia	Nephritis	Distomatosis & Cirrhosis	Parasitic	Abscesses	Pleurisy & Peritonitis	Pneumonia	Cavernous Angioma		Miscellaneous
BOVINES (excluding calves)	704	2	1	-	-	-	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Whole Carcases and Offal		-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Part Carcase		-	26	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Heads and Tongues		-	47	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Lungs		-	10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Livers and Part Livers		-	18	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Mesentery and Intestines		-		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
CALVES -	411	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Whole Carcases and Offal		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Lungs		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Livers		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
SHEEP -	896	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Whole Carcases and Offal		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Part Carcases		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Lungs		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Livers		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Heads		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
PIGS -	2,633	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Whole Carcases and Offal		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Part Carcases		-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Heads and Tongues		-	20	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Lungs		-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Livers		-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Mesentery and Intestines		-	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTALS	4,644	3	135	-	1	166	5	4	-	236	9	55	45	501	9	60	1,229



Ten complaints were received from purchasers of food that it's condition was such as to render it unfit for consumption, or that it contained foreign material. Each case was thoroughly investigated, but in no instance were legal proceedings instituted, either because contamination or unfitness at the time of sale could not be proved, or because the complainant was unwilling to give formal evidence. In five of these cases there was no doubt that on sale the food was fit for consumption; subsequent deterioration was due to careless handling by the purchaser, or to unsuitable storage in the home pending consumption. The following is a summary of the five other cases:-

(a) Bread or cake confectionery was the food in question in four cases, the foreign material causing the contamination being - a small display pin; a piece of wrapping paper; part of the chrysalis of a moth; mice excreta. With one exception, the food was made locally, and appropriate action by interviews and correspondence took place in each case.

(b) The screw cap of a bottle of mint sauce was found by the purchaser to have a small needle wedged across the inside of the lining. The sauce was prepared and bottled in a modern well-equipped factory at Redhill. The purchase was made in a multiple store at Newcastle-on-Tyne. The cause of the accidental contamination could not be traced, but it probably occurred in another factory where the caps were separately manufactured and lined.

Orders made before the war under the Merchandise Marks Act, 1926, relate to the following imported foodstuffs:

Fresh apples; currants, sultanas and raisins; eggs (in shell); dried eggs; oat products; raw tomatoes; bacon and ham; dead poultry; meat; margarine; malt products; frozen or chilled salmon and sea trout; honey.

They provide that on sale the goods shall bear an indication of the country of origin. The object of the Orders is to give the purchasing public the opportunity of choosing whether they will buy goods of Home, Empire or Foreign origin. The food traders concerned have been found to comply with these Orders in a reasonably satisfactory manner. The few minor infringements noted have related to the marking of imported apples and tomatoes, but verbal requests by the Inspectors for compliance with the Orders have secured correct marking.

#### Food and Drugs Act, 1938 - Sections 13 & 14

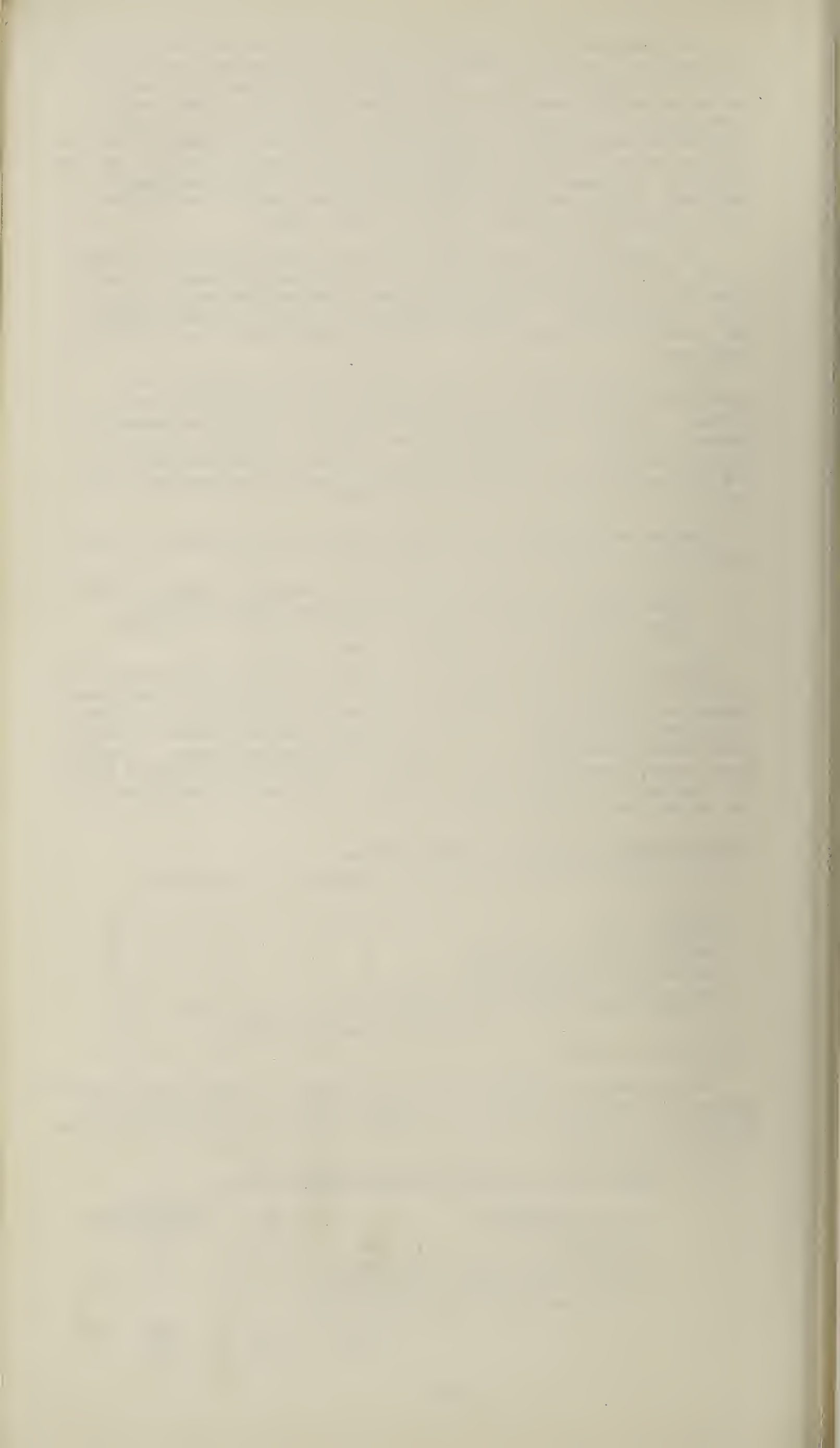
The Register of food premises now includes the following:-

Grocers, etc.	.. .. .	98
Butchers, etc.	.. .. .	38
Fruiterers and Greengrocers	.. .. .	37
Fishmongers and Fish-fryers	.. .. .	24
Confectioners (including 16 bakehouses)	.. .. .	100
Catering Establishments (including 69 Public Houses and 9 School canteen-kitchens)	.. .. .	127
Food Manufactories	.. .. .	8

Five hundred and five visits of inspection were made to food premises, particular attention being given to those which are registered under Section 14, and which are shown in detail below as being on the Register at the end of 1955:-

#### (a) Manufacture and sale of preserved food, etc.:

<u>Type of Premises</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>No. of Inspections</u>
Butchers, etc.	32	82
Fish-fryers	13	40
Bakers (manufacture of meat pies)	2	3
Fruiterer (manufacture of jam and marmalade)	1	1
Total	48	126





(b) Manufacture and storage of ice-cream:

<u>Type of Premises</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>No. of Inspections</u>
Confectioner, etc.	<u>2</u>	<u>5</u>

(c) Storage and sale of ice-cream:

Confectioners, etc.	71	35
Grocers, etc.	31	101
Fruiterers, etc.	6	29
Fishmongers, etc.	4	14
Newsagents, etc.	5	3
Butcher	1	1
Totals	<u>118</u>	<u>183</u>

In addition to the above-named premises, there are 17 catering establishments where ice-cream is sold for consumption off the premises which are exempt from registration under existing law.

Inspection shows that the occupiers of food premises in general maintain a satisfactory standard of premises and equipment, and show co-operation in effecting improvements which may be suggested. Individual methods of food handling, however, do not always reach the same standard, and there is scope in this field for the education of managements and employees. Whilst public lectures and film demonstrations may be useful on occasions, education can better be achieved by the Inspectors during their routine visits of inspection, and at subsequent follow-up visits where it is found to be necessary. The number of routine inspections which can be made and the amount of time which can be given to talks to food handlers is, of course, limited by the staff available and the priority which may at any time have to be given to other branches of work. During 1955 no serious infringement of Section 13 or of the bye-laws made under Section 15 has been noted.

A number of new food premises (shops, canteens, etc.) have been built during the year in connection with new housing estates or factories; there is in this connection co-operation between this Department and the Borough Surveyor's Department whenever plans of these buildings are deposited for bye-law approval; it is thus possible to make observations to the Architects or builders concerned on points relating to general sanitary or hygienic conditions before construction is commenced.

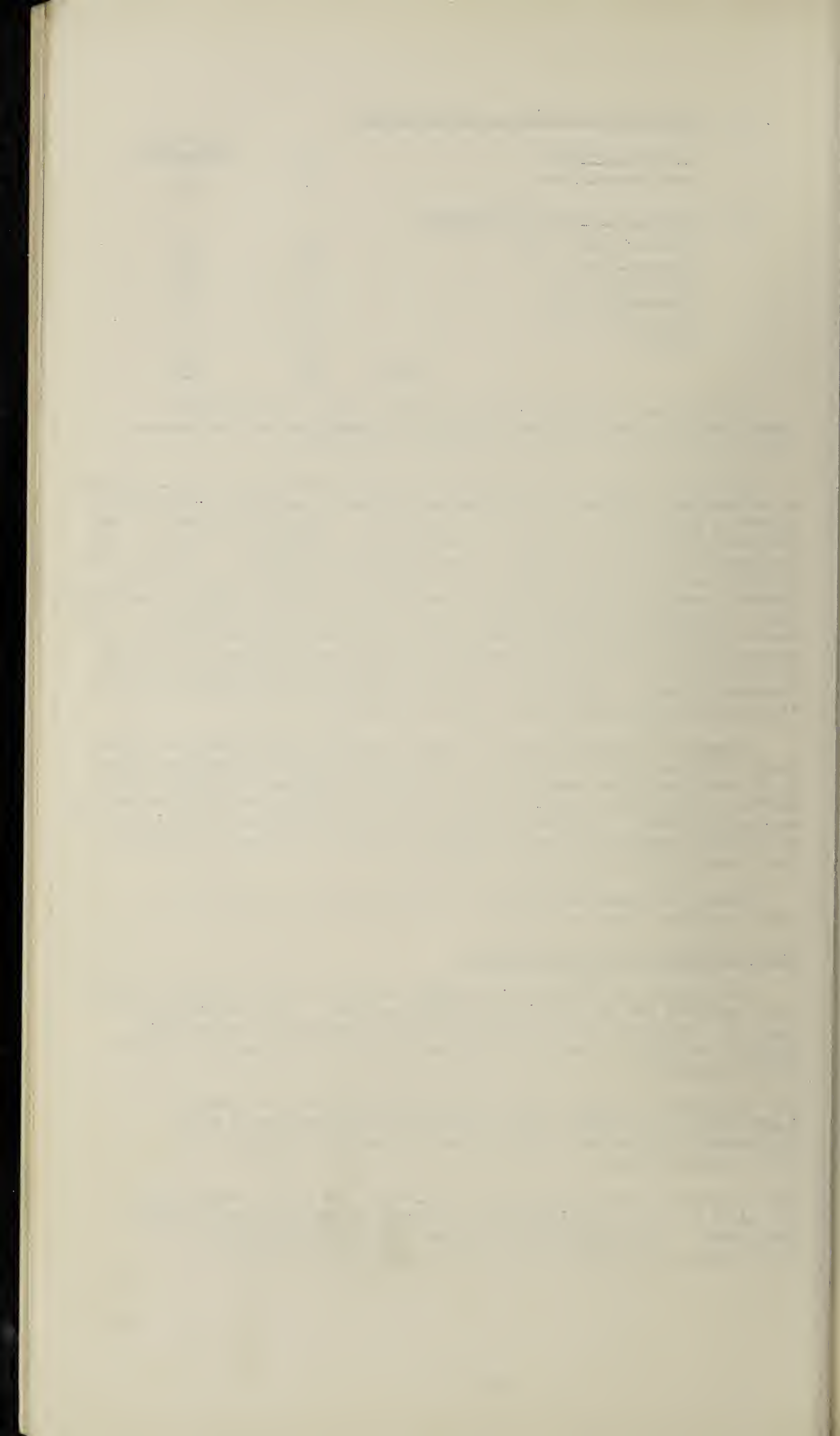
Some of the improvements made in food premises as a result of inspections are shown on page 42.

Food and Drugs Act, 1938 - Sampling

One hundred and twenty-three samples purchased by the sampling officers were submitted for analysis by the Public Analyst. They covered a wide range of commodities, and were almost without exception of satisfactory quality; in only two cases did the Analyst make an unfavourable comment. These concerned:-

(a) A sample of sausages which were described on sale as being of "extra full meat content", but contained only 50 per cent of meat. The vendor withdrew this incorrect and misleading description from future sales; and,

(b) A sample of mint sauce which contained on the label a description of "mint" as one of the ingredients, whereas the herb used was in fact dried mint. The manufacturer undertook to amend future labels, by specifying precisely the true nature of the ingredients used.

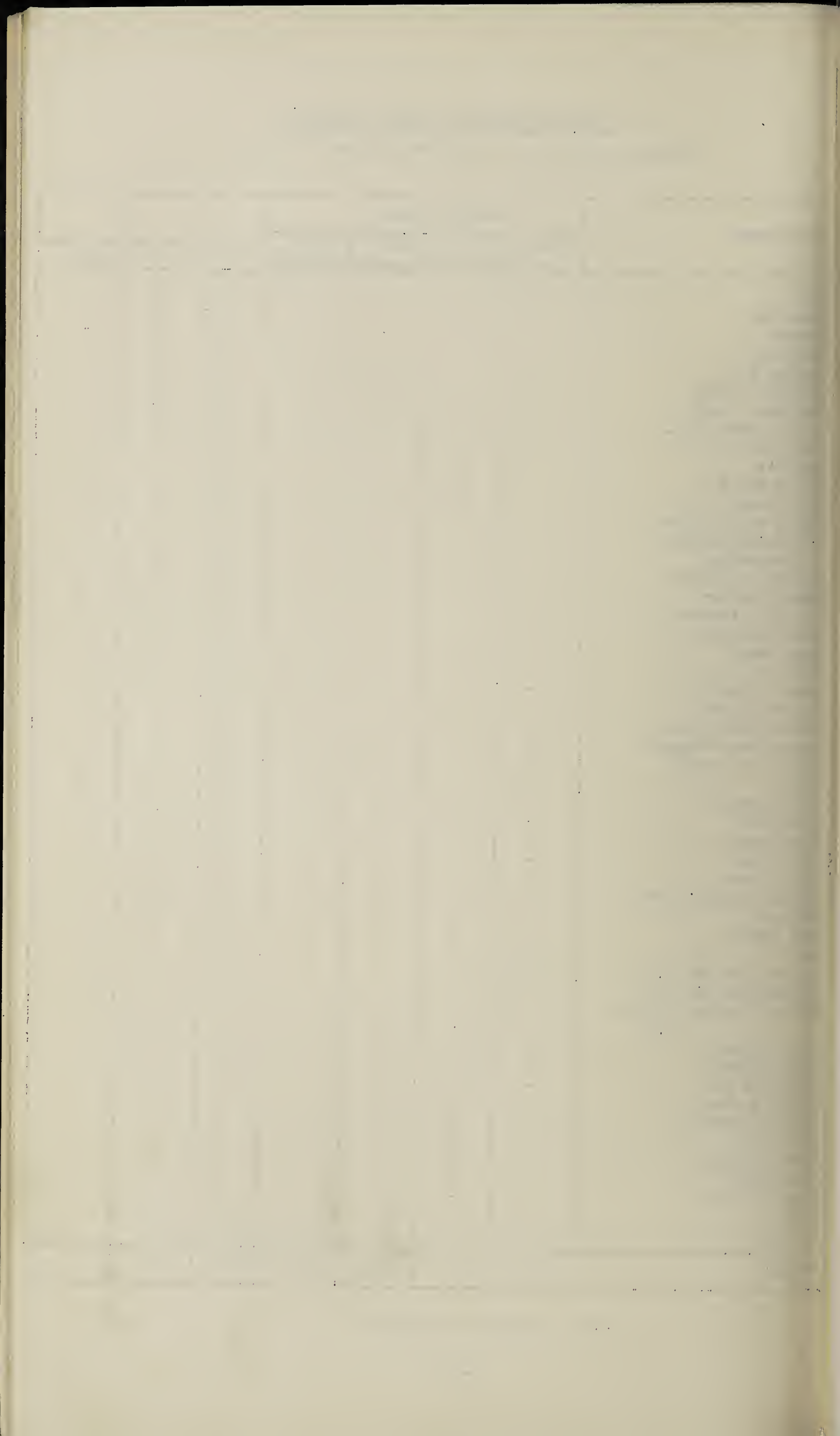


FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938 - SAMPLING

(Public Analyst: D. D. Moir Esq., M.Sc., F.R.I.C.)

FOODSTUFFS	SAMPLES TAKEN				Total	Genuine	Adulterated
	First Quarter	Second Quarter	Third Quarter	Fourth Quarter			
Milk	9	2	5	7	23	23	-
Ice-cream	-	4	-	-	4	4	-
Butter	-	1	-	1	2	2	-
Margarine	-	1	-	-	1	1	-
Cooking Fat	1	1	-	-	2	2	-
Sausages - Pork	3	-	1	2	6	6	-
Sausages - Beef	6	1	1	1	9	9*	-
Liver & Bacon Roll	-	-	-	1	1	1	-
Meat Pie	-	1	-	-	1	1	-
Pork Pie	-	1	-	-	1	1	-
Minced Steak	-	1	-	-	1	1	-
Veal Brawn	-	-	-	1	1	1	-
Meat & Fish Pastes	2	1	-	-	3	3	-
Artificial Colour & Flavouring	-	-	2	2	4	4	-
Essence of Rennet	-	1	-	1	2	2	-
Baking Powder	-	-	-	1	1	1	-
Cocktail Cherries	1	-	-	-	1	1	-
Custard Powder	-	-	-	1	1	1	-
Dried Fruit	-	2	-	3	5	5	-
Fruit Pie	-	1	-	-	1	1	-
Ground Almonds	-	-	-	1	1	1	-
Ground Ginger	-	-	-	1	1	1	-
Ground Mixed Spice	-	1	-	-	1	1	-
Ground White Pepper	-	-	1	-	1	1	-
Ham Cheese Spread	1	-	-	-	1	1	-
Jelly	-	-	-	1	1	1	-
Malt Vinegar	-	1	-	-	1	1	-
Mincemeat	-	-	-	1	1	1	-
Mixed Herbs	-	1	-	-	1	1	-
Mixed Peel	-	1	-	-	1	1	-
White Flour	-	-	-	1	1	1	-
Sauces, Pickles, etc.	7	1	8	1	17	17*	-
Sherbert	-	-	-	1	1	1	-
Soft Drinks	-	4	-	1	5	5	-
Tea	1	-	-	-	1	1	-
Aspirin Tablets B.P.	1	-	-	-	1	1	-
Camphorated Oil B.P.	-	-	-	1	1	1	-
Codeine Coloured Tablets B.P.	-	-	1	-	1	1	-
Cough Mixture	1	1	-	-	2	2	-
Cough Sweets	1	-	-	-	1	1	-
Glycerine B.P.	-	-	-	1	1	1	-
Health Salts	-	1	-	1	2	2	-
Liquid Paraffin	-	-	-	1	1	1	-
Olive Oil	-	1	-	-	1	1	-
Syrup of Figs	-	1	-	-	1	1	-
Witch Hazel	-	1	-	-	1	1	-
Yeast Tablets	-	-	1	-	1	1	-
Beer	-	-	-	3	3	3	-
Whisky	-	-	-	1	1	1	-
TOTALS	34	32	20	37	123	123	-

\* One incorrectly labelled





## Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949

The entries in the Registers required to be kept in accordance with the Regulations are summarised as follows:-

### Distributors:

(a)	With 3 dairies in the Borough	..	..	..	..	..	2
(b)	With dairies outside the Borough	..	..	..	..	..	6
(c)	With premises in the Borough	..	..	..	..	..	15
	(bottled milk sold in general shops)						

Of the three dairies, two were used only for the cold storage and distribution of bottled pasteurised milk. The third is in premises equipped with a high-temperature short-time pasteurising apparatus and other modern fittings. Frequent inspections of these dairies have been made, and particular attention has been paid to the last mentioned dairy, where a considerable proportion of the milk consumed in the Borough is pasteurised; it is used daily to its fullest capacity. The milk sold from this dairy is augmented by pasteurised supplies from other processing plants operated by the firm in parts of London and the Home Counties. Frequent samples of the pasteurised milk were taken, both on the premises and on the round, and results were invariably satisfactory.

A detailed report on the samples of milk which were taken in 1955 from producers and distributors, and submitted for bacteriological examination, is given in the report of the Medical Officer of Health.

### Hairdressers' and Barbers' Establishments

During 1955, it was only possible to devote a comparatively small amount of time to the inspection of this type of premises, and to follow up the works of improvement carried out since the survey of 1953 and the adoption of bye-laws during the following year. At the end of the year, there were 45 premises (18 men's and 27 women's establishments); 19 inspections were made, when it was found that, in general, improved standards have been maintained.

### Factories Act, 1937

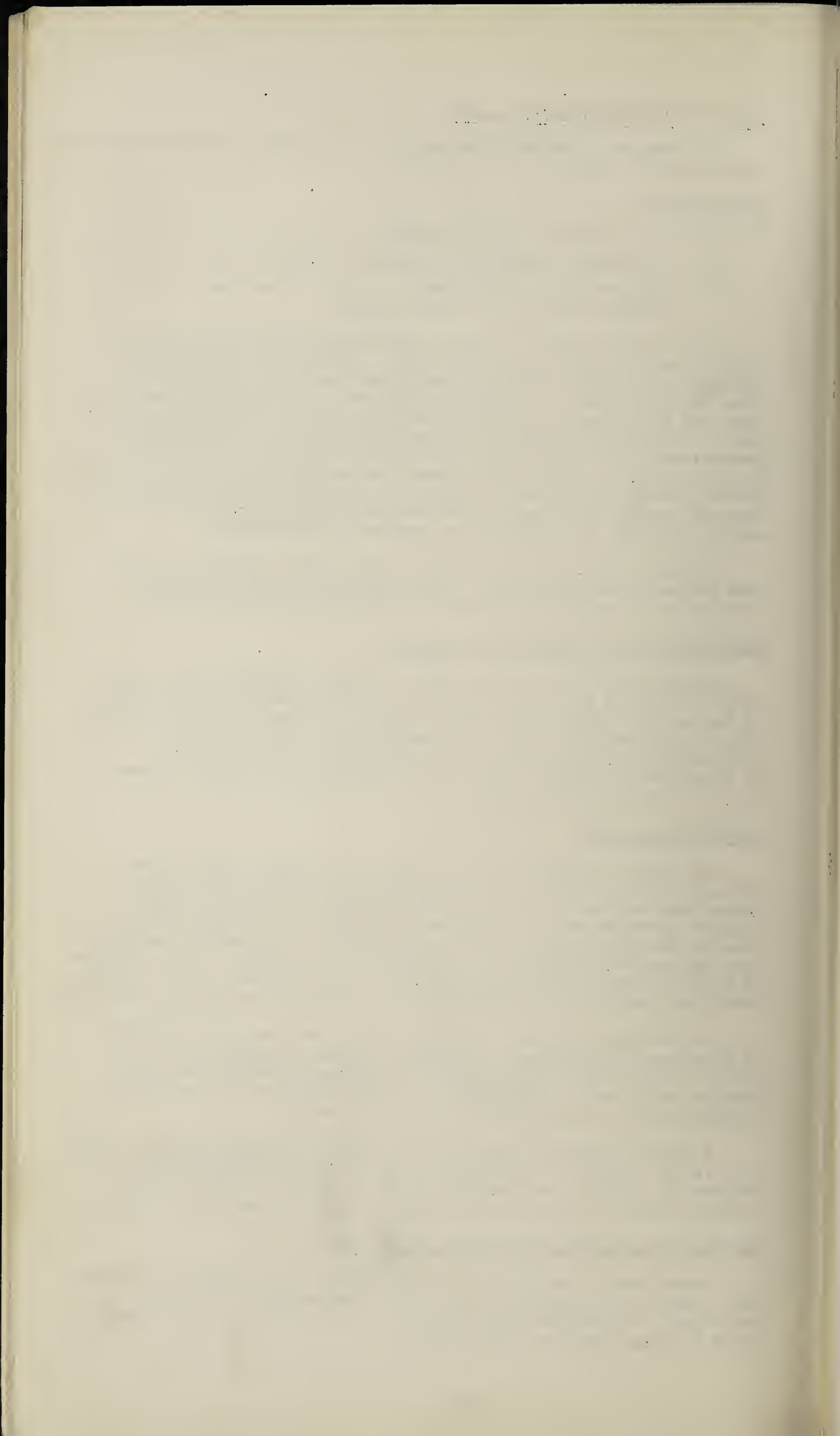
The Table on page 39 shows in detail the various trades in the Borough that come within the scope of the Act. During the year 106 inspections were made. The Register of factories has been further brought up-to-date and now contains 204 entries; in 19 cases defects relating particularly to sanitary accommodation and general cleanliness were discovered; defects in 15 factories were remedied. H.M. Inspector of Factories drew attention to defects in 4 of the above cases which came within the sections of the Factories Act enforceable by the Local Authority.

One factory (a laundry and dry-cleaning premises) was re-examined in accordance with Section 34 relating to means of escape in case of fire; a notice was served on the firm requiring certain works to be carried out to effect improvements. After these had been carried out satisfactorily, an amended certificate was issued.

A number of plans of new factories submitted to the Borough Surveyor for bye-law approval, were examined with a view to checking points relating to sanitary accommodation, means of escape in case of fire, canteen kitchens, drainage, etc., prior to the buildings being erected.

### Rag Flock and Other Filling Materials Act, 1951

There is only one factory which is subject to the provisions of this Act - one in which spring mattresses are manufactured. This is registered in accordance with Section 2. No samples of rag flock or other fillings were taken during 1955.



Factories Act, 1937 - List of Factories  
on Register at end of 1955

								<u>Mechanical</u> <u>Power</u>	<u>No</u> <u>Mechanical</u> <u>Power</u>
Agricultural Engineers	..	..	..	..				2	-
Art Leather Works	..	..	..	..				1	-
Bakers	..	..	..	..	..	..		16	-
Basket Work	..	..	..	..	..	..		1	-
Book Binder	..	..	..	..	..	..		1	-
Boot Makers and Repairers		..	..	..	..			4	-
Brick Makers, etc.	..	..	..	..	..	..		3	-
Builders and Contractors		..	..	..	..			6	4
Cabinet Makers and Upholsterers		..	..	..	..			5	1
Cork Disc Manufacturers		..	..	..	..			1	-
Cycle Makers, Repairers and Vulcanisers		..	..	..	..			1	2
Dairymen	..	..	..	..	..	..		1	-
Dressmakers and Milliners		..	..	..	..			1	3
Dry Cleaners	..	..	..	..	..	..		2	-
Engineers Automobile	..	..	..	..	..			25	2
Engineers Electrical	..	..	..	..	..			2	1
Engineers Light	..	..	..	..	..	..		27	1
Food Manufacturers	..	..	..	..	..	..		5	-
File Boxes Manufacturers	..	..	..	..	..	..		-	-
Foundry	..	..	..	..	..	..		2	-
Fullers Earth Works	..	..	..	..	..	..		1	-
Gas Works	..	..	..	..	..	..		2	-
Glass Cutting and Paint Packing		..	..	..	..			1	-
Hardware Assembly	..	..	..	..	..	..		1	-
Hearthstone Works	..	..	..	..	..	..		1	-
Jam and Essence Makers	..	..	..	..	..	..		1	1
Knacker's Yard	..	..	..	..	..	..		-	1
Lace Frilling Works	..	..	..	..	..	..		1	-
Laundries	..	..	..	..	..	..		4	-
Log Sawing	..	..	..	..	..	..		1	-
Mattress Manufacturers	..	..	..	..	..	..		1	-
Mineral Water Manufacturers	..	..	..	..	..	..		2	-
Monumental Masons and Undertakers		..	..	..	..			-	2
Motor Body Repairs		..	..	..	..	..		6	-
Newspaper Fudging	..	..	..	..	..	..		3	-
Oil Refining	..	..	..	..	..	..		1	-
Photographic Works		..	..	..	..	..		-	1
Pianoforte Repairers	..	..	..	..	..	..		-	1
Plumbers	..	..	..	..	..	..		4	1
Precast Concrete Manufacturers		..	..	..	..			1	-
Printers	..	..	..	..	..	..		9	-
Public Works Contractors	..	..	..	..	..	..		1	-
Scale Repairers	..	..	..	..	..	..		2	-
Seed Merchants	..	..	..	..	..	..		3	-
Sewing Machine Repairs	..	..	..	..	..	..		2	-
Shoeing and General Smiths		..	..	..	..	..		-	2
Shop Fitters	..	..	..	..	..	..		1	-
Soldering Outfit Assembly		..	..	..	..	..		-	1
Steel Wool Manufacturers		..	..	..	..	..		2	-
Tailors	..	..	..	..	..	..		1	2
Thermometer Manufacturers		..	..	..	..	..		1	-
Timber Merchants	..	..	..	..	..	..		2	-
Toy Manufacturers	..	..	..	..	..	..		-	-
Watchmakers	..	..	..	..	..	..		2	1
Wax Refining Works	..	..	..	..	..	..		1	-
Building Sites and Works of Engineering Construction	..							13	-
TOTALS								177	27

1871		1872		1873		1874		1875		1876		1877		1878		1879		1880		1881		1882		1883		1884		1885		1886		1887		1888		1889		1890		1891		1892		1893		1894		1895		1896		1897		1898		1899		1900		1901		1902		1903		1904		1905		1906		1907		1908		1909		1910		1911		1912		1913		1914		1915		1916		1917		1918		1919		1920		1921		1922		1923		1924		1925		1926		1927		1928		1929		1930		1931		1932		1933		1934		1935		1936		1937		1938		1939		1940		1941		1942		1943		1944		1945		1946		1947		1948		1949		1950		1951		1952		1953		1954		1955		1956		1957		1958		1959		1960		1961		1962		1963		1964		1965		1966		1967		1968		1969		1970		1971		1972		1973		1974		1975		1976		1977		1978		1979		1980		1981		1982		1983		1984		1985		1986		1987		1988		1989		1990		1991		1992		1993		1994		1995		1996		1997		1998		1999		2000		2001		2002		2003		2004		2005		2006		2007		2008		2009		2010		2011		2012		2013		2014		2015		2016		2017		2018		2019		2020		2021		2022		2023		2024		2025		2026		2027		2028		2029		2030		2031		2032		2033		2034		2035		2036		2037		2038		2039		2040		2041		2042		2043		2044		2045		2046		2047		2048		2049		2050		2051		2052		2053		2054		2055		2056		2057		2058		2059		2060		2061		2062		2063		2064		2065		2066		2067		2068		2069		2070		2071		2072		2073		2074		2075		2076		2077		2078		2079		2080		2081		2082		2083		2084		2085		2086		2087		2088		2089		2090		2091		2092		2093		2094		2095		2096		2097		2098		2099		2100		2101		2102		2103		2104		2105		2106		2107		2108		2109		2110		2111		2112		2113		2114		2115		2116		2117		2118		2119		2120		2121		2122		2123		2124		2125		2126		2127		2128		2129		2130		2131		2132		2133		2134		2135		2136		2137		2138		2139		2140		2141		2142		2143		2144		2145		2146		2147		2148		2149		2150		2151		2152		2153		2154		2155		2156		2157		2158		2159		2160		2161		2162		2163		2164		2165		2166		2167		2168		2169		2170		2171		2172		2173		2174		2175		2176		2177		2178		2179		2180		2181		2182		2183		2184		2185		2186		2187		2188		2189		2190		2191		2192		2193		2194		2195		2196		2197		2198		2199		2200		2201		2202		2203		2204		2205		2206		2207		2208		2209		2210		2211		2212		2213		2214		2215		2216		2217		2218		2219		2220		2221		2222		2223		2224		2225		2226		2227		2228		2229		2230		2231		2232		2233		2234		2235		2236		2237		2238		2239		2240		2241		2242		2243		2244		2245		2246		2247		2248		2249		2250		2251		2252		2253		2254		2255		2256		2257		2258		2259		2260		2261		2262		2263		2264		2265		2266		2267		2268		2269		2270		2271		2272		2273		2274		2275		2276		2277		2278		2279		2280		2281		2282		2283		2284		2285		2286		2287		2288		2289		2290		2291		2292		2293		2294		2295		2296		2297		2298		2299		2300		2301		2302		2303		2304		2305		2306		2307		2308		2309		2310		2311		2312		2313		2314		2315		2316		2317		2318		2319		2320		2321		2322		2323		2324		2325		2326	
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## Housing Repairs & Rents Act, 1954

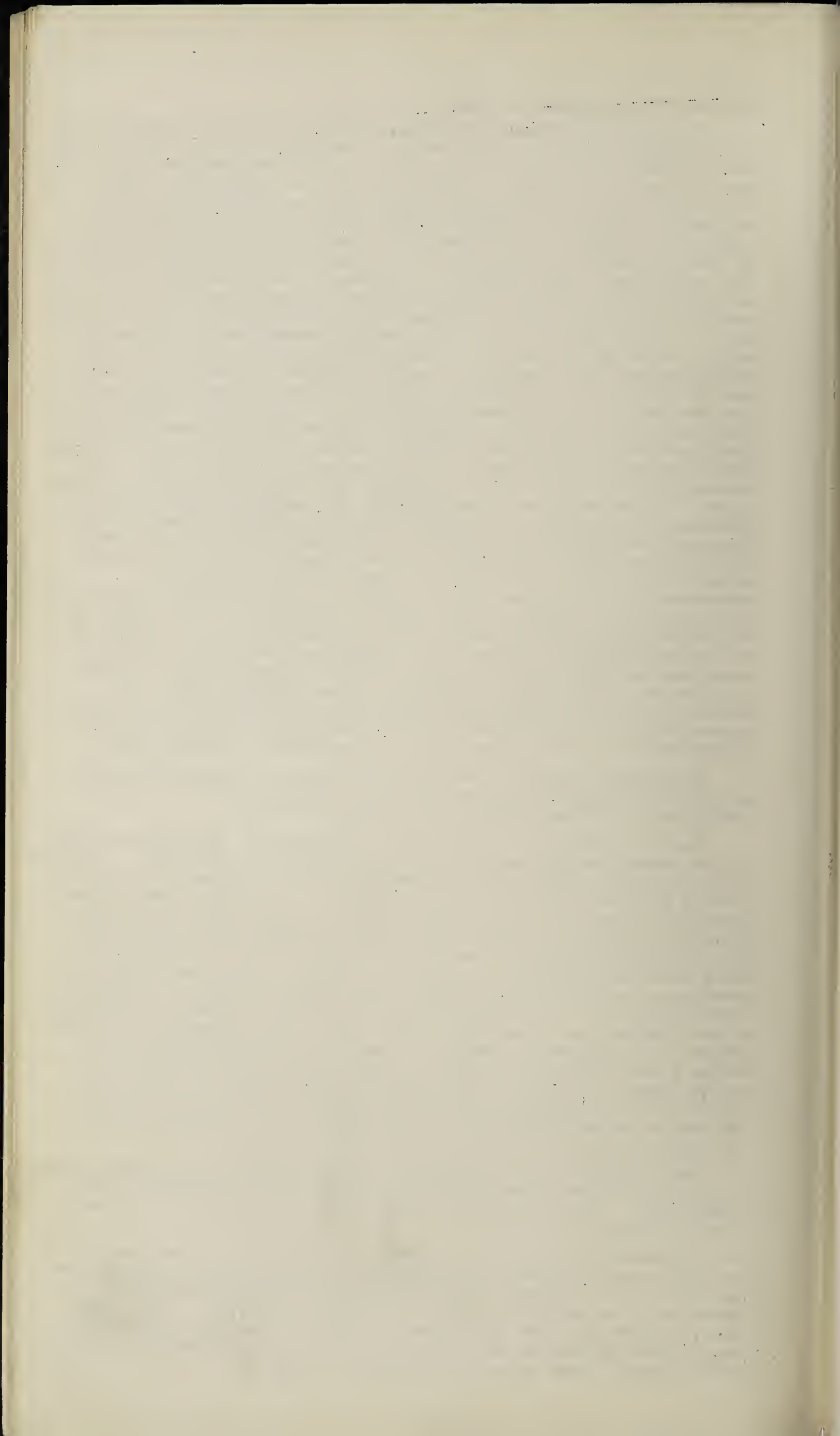
The main provisions of this Act deal with the additional powers given to Local Authorities in the clearance and demolition of unfit houses, the reconditioning and maintenance of houses, and the "repairs increase" of the rents of controlled houses; it came into force on 30th August, 1954. A considerable part of the Sanitary Inspectors' time during 1955 was spent on certain aspects of housing work which became urgently necessary as a result of this Act. It was first of all necessary to make a rapid survey of the district in order to estimate the number of unfit houses suitable for action under either Section 11 or Section 25 of the Housing Act, 1936, which the Council can deal with in the five-year programme which had to be submitted to the Minister of Housing & Local Government by the 30th August, 1955. The estimated number of such dwelling-houses was found to be 263, many of which are concentrated in the centre of Redhill, and were built about 100 years ago, when little thought was given to planning and there was no supervision of building methods or materials; these properties are now worn out, and it has become uneconomical to perpetuate standards of construction and general arrangement of accommodation and amenities which would not be approved today. The only factor in their favour which makes them attractive to the tenants is that they are let at low rents; re-housing of the occupants will undoubtedly cause financial hardship in some cases. It was suggested to the Minister that nearly 50 houses might be suitable for retention as temporary accommodation under Section 2 of the 1954 Act, but approval was not given to this procedure, as the Minister was of opinion that the demolition and replacement of its unfit houses within five years was well within the competence of the Council. Consideration of the reports of the officers concerned in this matter was referred by the Council to a Sub-Committee consisting of the Chairmen of the Public Health, Housing and Town Planning Committees, and as a result of the Sub-Committee's deliberations a programme covering the first two years has been agreed upon. This involves the official representation of 87 houses in the centre of Redhill in three Clearance Areas, the acquisition of what is known as the Dome Estate in Warwick Road and North Street, Redhill, for development for re-housing, and the demolition and replacement of 33 unfit houses which now form part of the Dome Estate.

The problem of slum clearance has been eased to some extent by the action already taken by the Council since 1945; up to the end of 1955, demolition or closing orders had been made in 84 cases.

The real problem of the repair and maintenance of dwelling-houses let at low controlled rents remains and becomes more acute each year. The type of house chiefly affected does not comply with the standard of fitness in Section 9 of the 1954 Act, and having regard to the very low rent cannot possibly be made fit at a reasonable expense; on the other hand, it is a type which obviously should be kept going for another 20 or more years, and, in addition, should be modernised and provided with the amenities which should be regarded as a necessary minimum in any house, namely, the provision of an internal watercloset, bath, washhand basin, hot and cold water supplies, and a well lighted and ventilated food-store. The purpose of the 1954 Act was to encourage owners to put their properties into good repair, and to improve and modernise those which could be regarded as having a further life of at least 15 years. Unfortunately, the Act has so far proved a failure; the incentive of higher rents has not proved an attraction economically, owing to the ever increasing cost of repairs, and with a few exceptions only owner/occupiers have taken advantage of the improvement grant procedure commenced in an earlier Act.

Twelve applications for certificates of disrepair were received during the year, one of which was withdrawn; certificates were granted in the other cases. Certificates were revoked in six cases, two of which were issued in 1954.

The publicity which has been given to the renewal of slum clearance has led to many enquiries being received, both from owners and prospective purchasers, as to whether the houses in which they are interested are likely to be the subject of action by the Local Authority. It is hoped that the information and advice which it has been possible to give has been helpful, if only to put prospective purchasers on their guard against buying property which later may be deemed to be unfit.





## Complaints

The following is a summary of the complaints received during the year:-

Insanitary condition of premises	..	..	..	..	..	74
Defective dustbin	..	..	..	..	..	1
House drainage	..	..	..	..	..	26
Cesspools overflowing	..	..	..	..	..	8
Smells emanating from sewers and street gullies	..	..	..	..	..	4
Non-removal of house refuse	..	..	..	..	..	5
Kitchen-waste street-bins	..	..	..	..	..	6
Rats or Mice	..	..	..	..	..	265
Other Vermin (Foxes, Badgers, etc.)	..	..	..	..	..	13
Verminous premises	..	..	..	..	..	2
Other insect pests	..	..	..	..	..	8
Wasps nests	..	..	..	..	..	57
Unsound food (sold)	..	..	..	..	..	6
Dirty milk bottles	..	..	..	..	..	2
Keeping of animals, etc.	..	..	..	..	..	2
Smoke nuisance	..	..	..	..	..	9
Factories	..	..	..	..	..	6
Miscellaneous	..	..	..	..	..	48

## Notices Issued and Action Taken

The following Table is a statement of the notices dealt with during the year:-

### Preliminary -

Outstanding on 1st January, 1955	..	..	..	..	82
Issued during year	..	..	..	..	227
Complied with during year	..	..	..	..	204
Statutory action necessary	..	..	..	..	-
Outstanding on 31st December, 1955	..	..	..	..	105

### Statutory -

Outstanding on 1st January, 1955	..	..	..	..	2
Issued during year	..	..	..	..	-
Complied with during year	..	..	..	..	2
Outstanding on 31st December, 1955	..	..	..	..	-

## Nuisances Abated, Defects Remedied, etc.

The following is a summary of the work carried out during the year, both voluntarily and in consequence of notices in respect of dwelling-houses, food premises, factories, and other business premises.

### Dwelling-houses

Roofs repaired	..	..	..	..	..	36
Eaves-gutters and stack-pipes repaired	..	..	..	..	..	26
Chimney-stacks rebuilt or repaired	..	..	..	..	..	9
Pointing or otherwise weatherproofing of brickwork (houses)	..	..	..	..	..	12
Other causes of dampness remedied	..	..	..	..	..	10
Drains examined or tested (primary inspections only)	..	..	..	..	..	144
Drainage systems repaired, extended or relaid	..	..	..	..	..	48
Blocked drains cleared	..	..	..	..	..	33
Soil or ventilation pipes installed or renewed	..	..	..	..	..	14
New W.Cs. installed	..	..	..	..	..	24
W.C. apparatus renewed or repaired	..	..	..	..	..	15
Cesspools abolished	..	..	..	..	..	2
Pail-closets abolished	..	..	..	..	..	1
Existing house drains connected to public sewer	..	..	..	..	..	2
Sewage treatment plants or cesspools installed	..	..	..	..	..	4
Dustbins renewed	..	..	..	..	..	4
Rooms cleansed and redecorated	..	..	..	..	..	32
Plaster of walls and/or ceilings repaired	..	..	..	..	..	36
Internal paintwork renewed	..	..	..	..	..	2
Floors repaired or renewed	..	..	..	..	..	16





### Dwelling-houses (continued)

Window frames or sashcords repaired	..	..	..	..	20
Doors repaired or renewed	..	..	..	..	10
Fireplaces repaired or renewed	..	..	..	..	3
Sinks renewed or installed	..	..	..	..	8
Washhand basins renewed or installed	..	..	..	..	16
Waste pipes trapped or repaired	..	..	..	..	3
Piped mains water supply laid	..	..	..	..	2
Water supply pipes repaired or installed	..	..	..	..	2
Baths installed	..	..	..	..	13
Nuisances from animals or poultry abated	..	..	..	..	1
Accumulations removed	..	..	..	..	1
Yards cleansed	..	..	..	..	1
Other nuisances abated	..	..	..	..	20

### Food Premises:

Sanitary accommodation improved	..	..	..	..	3
Drainage system improved	..	..	..	..	3
Rooms cleansed and/or redecorated	..	..	..	..	32
Plaster of walls and/or ceilings repaired	..	..	..	..	5
Windows repaired	..	..	..	..	1
Floors repaired or renewed	..	..	..	..	5
Internal paintwork renewed	..	..	..	..	2
Washhand basins installed	..	..	..	..	1
Ablution facilities otherwise improved	..	..	..	..	6
Constant hot water supply installed	..	..	..	..	5
Accumulations removed	..	..	..	..	4
Sinks renewed or installed	..	..	..	..	3
Dustbins renewed	..	..	..	..	10
Other nuisances abated	..	..	..	..	16

### Factories:

Sanitary accommodation improved	..	..	..	..	13
Rooms cleansed	..	..	..	..	1
I.C. constructed or repaired	..	..	..	..	1
Drainage system improved	..	..	..	..	1
Other nuisances abated	..	..	..	..	1

### Other Business Premises:

Drainage systems improved or repaired	..	..	..	..	4
Blocked drains cleared	..	..	..	..	2
Sanitary accommodation improved	..	..	..	..	10
New W.Cs. installed	..	..	..	..	3
W.C. apparatus renewed or repaired	..	..	..	..	2
Redecorations and improvement	..	..	..	..	7
Premises rat-proofed	..	..	..	..	1
Other nuisances abated	..	..	..	..	4

### Fairground Sanitation

The necessity for the supervision and control of sanitary conditions on land occupied for short periods by fairs, circuses, etc., has been explained in previous reports. Frequent visits of inspection are made on every occasion when land is so used; proprietors of these businesses are assisted by the emptying and cleansing service provided by the Borough Surveyor, for which a charge of 15/- a day is made. The institution of this service and the accompanying inspections has been proved by experience to be well worth while, and there is now a considerable improvement in these conditions.

### Heating Appliances (Fire Guards) Act, 1952, and Regulations, 1953

The above-named Act imposes a prohibition on the sale or hire or hire purchase of heating appliances which are not fitted with a guard or which, though fitted with a guard, do not comply with the standards prescribed by the above Regulations. The heating appliances in question are gas fires, electric fires and oil heaters which are so designed that they are suitable for use in residential premises, and are of such a type that without a guard there is a likelihood of injury to the person or of ignition of clothing or other fabrics.



Detailed standards of construction and fittings for guards, and the tests to be employed in ascertaining whether guards comply with those standards, are set out in the Regulations.

Heating appliances manufactured before the date of the coming into operation of the Regulations, i.e. 1st October, 1953, and not fitted with the requisite guard, were allowed to be sold until the end of September, 1954.

The few inspections and tests which it was possible to make during the latter part of 1955 revealed no infringements of the Act.

#### Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949

The results of the year's work under this heading are shown in the tabulated statement given below.

		<u>Type of Property</u>				<u>Total</u>
		<u>Local Authority</u>	<u>* Dwelling Houses</u>	<u>Agri- cul- tural</u>	<u>All other (including Business &amp; Industrial)</u>	
I.	Total No. of properties in Local Authority's district .. .. .	<u>28</u>	<u>13,765</u>	<u>54</u>	<u>1,778</u>	<u>15,625</u>
II.	No. of properties inspected by the Local Authority during 1955	(a) 6	213	4	71	294
	as a result (a) of notification or (b) otherwise .. .. .	(b) -	3	-	3	6
III.	No. of properties (under II) found to be infested by rats	Major -	-	-	-	-
		Minor 5	183	3	49	240
IV.	No. of properties (under II) found to be seriously infested by mice .. .. .	-	26	-	31	57
V.	No. of infested properties (under III and IV) treated by the Local Authority	5	205	2	77	289

						<u>Rats</u>	<u>Mice</u>
No. of infested premises under or awaiting treatment at the end of the year .. .. .						8	-
No. of "block control" schemes carried out .. .						3, involving 8 properties	

\* Council houses are included under dwelling-houses

It was not found necessary to secure the treatment of infested properties by the service of statutory notices. Work undertaken by the Pests Officers met with the ready co-operation of all concerned.

The annual testing of the Borough's sewerage system for rats was commenced in 1945, and has continued regularly since then. Poison baiting at those manholes found on test to be visited by rats has been carried out twice a year - during May and November. Of approximately 1,300 manholes it is now only necessary to poison at about 20; the amount of bait consumed suggests that there are now only comparatively few rats living in the sewers, and that these regular "treatments" are effective. It is doubtful if these methods and the particular poisons used will result in a complete clearance, as it may well be that there are small colonies of rats which can live in certain sections of the sewers where the only manholes which it is practicable to bait are some distance apart, or possibly where some of the







older sections are damaged. As soon as more time can be spent on this work, it is hoped to improve its effectiveness by trying other methods of baiting, and possibly other poisons; it is understood that bait preservatives are being developed which may assist in extending the usefulness of this branch of rodent control.

Other important points where the Pests Officers can exert systematic control are at the Council's Refuse & Sewage Disposal Works, and along the banks of the stream which flows through the centre of Redhill and through the built-up portion of the Earlswood area. Regular and systematic poison baiting at both these points has been very effective.

Rodent control work has also been carried out on railway properties at the request of the District Engineer of British Railways (Southern Region). There has also been useful co-operation with the Pests Officer of the Surrey Agricultural Executive Committee, who controls a staff of operatives available to assist farmers by routine inspections, etc., under contract terms.

The work mentioned above also does not include work carried out under contract arrangements with:

- (a) the Surrey County Council at all their premises in this Borough; these include the Public Assistance Institution and its ancillary Homes, 30 schools and 9 school kitchens, day nursery, clinics, fire brigade premises, etc.;
- (b) the Group Hospital Management Committee at the Redhill County Hospital;
- (c) one commercial firm, involving regular routine inspections of five premises owned by a local dairy.

The poison which is now most used in this work is "Warfarin", a synthetic chemical which acts as a blood anti-coagulant; rats feeding on this substance, mixed with a suitable bait, die from internal haemorrhage. It has the advantage over other poisons in that the material cannot be detected by rodents; the difficulty of poison prejudice does not, therefore, arise and baiting can be continuous. It is also relatively harmless to human beings and domestic animals, but care must be exercised in its use, as accidents involving the loss of other animals through carelessness have been recorded in other districts. Other poisons in occasional use are zinc phosphide, arsenic, red squill and "antu".

